

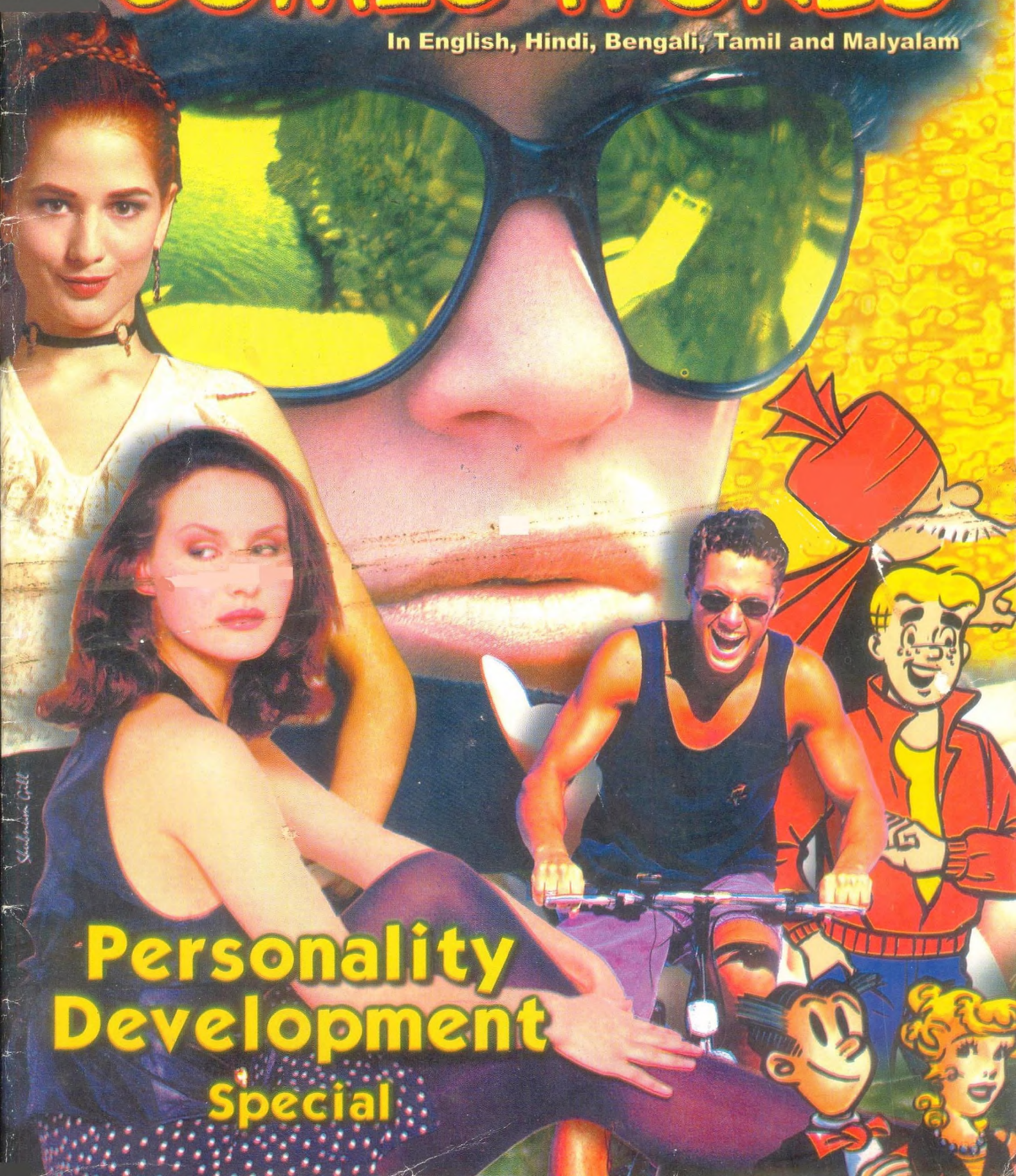


THE COMPLETE TEENS MAGAZINE

COMIC WORLD

In English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and Malayalam

DIAMOND
VOL 23



**Personality
Development**
Special

Shashin Goll



DIAMOND
Vol. 23

COMIC WORLD



Editorial



Dear Friends,

According to a study, when we meet a stronger, we make an opinion about him or her in just seven seconds. In most cases, we don't change that opinion. That's the magic of the first impression. That's why personality is considered a great asset. Personality is not limited to the choice of clothes, shoes or perfume only. It also consists of truthfulness in the voice, honesty in the eyes and confidence in the walk. In this **Personality Issue**, we've tried to cover various factors of a good personality. Our next issue is **Olympic Special**. Don't forget to buy that; for, it'll feature exclusive glimpses of this historic sports event.

Happy reading,

Always Yours

Gulshan Rai
(Gulshan Rai)

COMICS INSIDE

★ Tarzan ★
Spiderman ★
Batman ★ Love
Story ★ Tom &
Jerry ★ Chacha
Chaudhary ★
Billoo ★ Pinki ★
Paltu ★ Meeku ★
Vikram Betal ★

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Attitude



PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Setting Goals

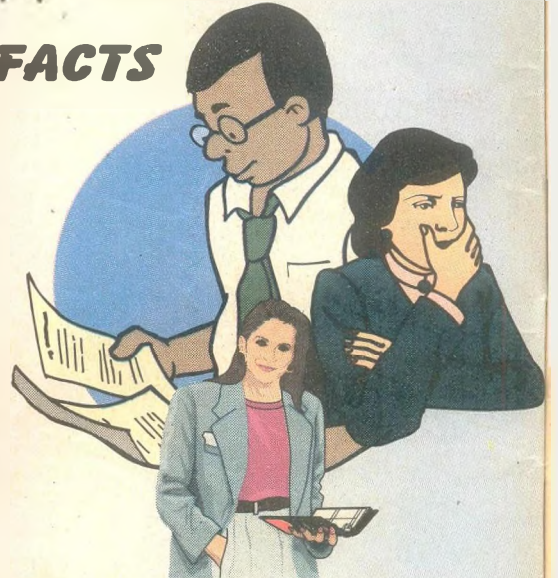
10 Tips to Cope with Stress

TEENS

TROUBLESHOOTING

SMOKING

INTERESTING FACTS



IN THE NEWS



DESIGNER FARMING: The Butterfly Wishes Corn/Soybean Maze at Pendleton's Country Market, near Lawrence. This aerial photograph shot, shows the 8-acre butterfly designed by Lawrence crop artist Stan Herd. The maze will be open to the public through October 1, 2000.

A competitor of the yearly Waiters' Race, balancing her tray, runs past the Louvre museum during the race in Paris.



CAROTY FRIENDSHIP: Charlie Montee, of Coeur



d'Alene, Idaho, shares a carrot with an overly friendly doe, in East Hope, Idaho.

PLAYING WITH FIRE:

An unidentified boy jumps over a bonfire during the San Juan festival that welcomes in the new summer in Madrid.



Devotees with bodies

covered with mud and wearing Banana leaves parade around town with the image of their patron saint, John



the Baptist, at Aliaga town in Nueva Ecija province, northern Philippines. The ritual, which is a sign of thanksgiving and sacrifice, is part of their annual festivities.



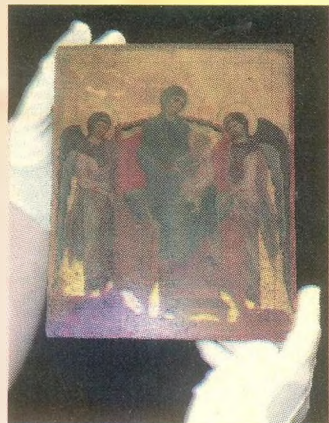
Spanish painter Pablo Picasso

(seen in this file photo taken in the 1960's in Vallauris, France) had his hair cut by barber Eugenio Arias for over 26 years. As Arias did not charge him, Picasso paid him in art.

A crane lifts one of the four famous horse sculptures by Pyotr Klodt for restoration in St. Petersburg. The bronze sculptures, called Horse Tamers, were installed on Anichkov Bridge in St. Petersburg in 1849-50. They were removed only once in 1941 to save them from bombing during World War II.

Children play in the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground in Kensington Gardens, London. The Playground and Walk, commissioned by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee was officially opened Friday, June 30, 2000.

TREASURED ART: A newly discovered 13th century gold-ground panel painting by Italian master Cimabue, measuring only 10 x 8 inches, displayed at Sotheby's in London, before being transported to the National Gallery,



which negotiated with the auction house to save it for the nation. The painting will be known as the 'Benacre Madonna and Child' after Benacre Hall in Suffolk, seat of the Gooch family, where Sotheby's art expert Richard Charlton-Jones recognised it as a masterpiece.

An "X-ray Kangaroo", a kangaroo in profile with its lungs, spinal column and part of the gut visible, made with earth ocher on bark in 1960 by an unknown artist in Arnhem Land which is part of an exhibit titled "Spirit Country: Australian Aboriginal Art" at Explorers Hall at the National Geographic Society in Washington.

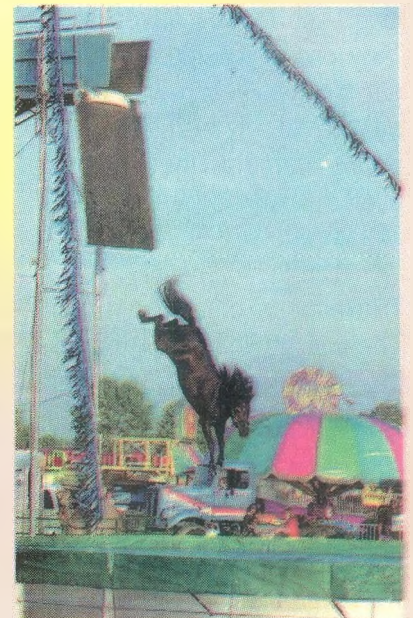


Local girls prepare for a traditional "Rain Dance" at an opening ceremony of a culture centre called "Xanana Gusmao Reading Room," the name taken from Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao, East Timorese independence leader and president of National Council of Temorese Resistance (CNRT) in Dili, East Timor.



IN THE NEWS

HORSE DIVING: A pony dives from a 30-foot high platform at the Queen of Heaven Carnival, at Ron Jaworski Stadium in Lackawanna, New York. The animal's handler was able to perform his act after several days of delay due to threats of arrest and confiscation by the Erie County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.





Uncle Pai's way to Success



Anant Pai

Are you a good listener?

A group of young men were waiting to be interviewed for the job of a wireless operator. They were talking among themselves and paid little attention to anything else. Just then another young man entered the room. He immediately listened to the sounds of dada dita da that were coming over the loudspeaker outside the office room of the interviewer. He went into the office and after a few minutes, came out smiling.

One of the men waiting outside, called out, "How could you get ahead of us? We have been waiting here for long." The young man replied, "Any one of you could have got the job, if only you had cared to listen to the announcement that came over the loudspeaker in the Morse code."

"What announcement?"

"The announcement that said: The first applicant to listen to this announcement and to walk into the office gets the job." The story explains the importance of listening. Like those interviewees, most of us go through life only hearing whatever is said near us, but

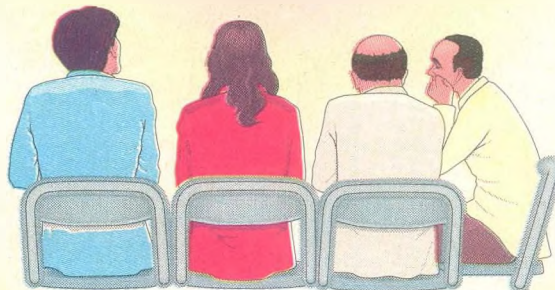


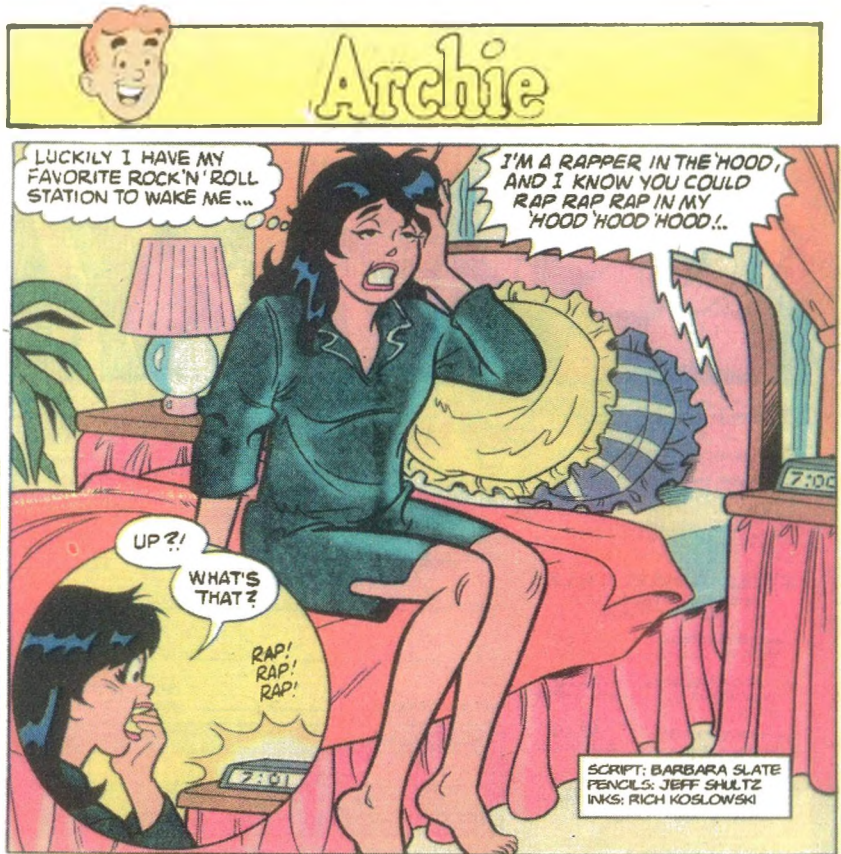
not listening to it.

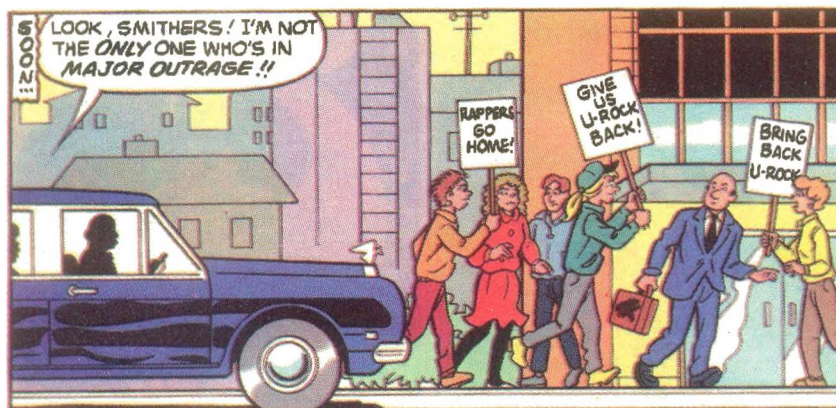
A teacher once asked a student to read a paragraph from a book. The youngster obeyed. The teacher then asked the student to explain in his own words what the paragraph meant.

The youngster replied, "I am sorry, sir. I was not listening." Often much of the time we spend on hearing what others say is wasted, because we have not learnt to listen.

As soon as your professor/teacher enters the classroom, get ready to listen. Otherwise the beginning will be lost on you. An important truth of life is that we learn from whom we like and respect. Therefore when you are in a classroom at school or a lecture room at college, it is in your interest that you develop a liking and respect for the speaker. That will enable you to concentrate. To prevent your mind from wandering focus your gaze on the speaker. Take down notes. They will serve like cues when you go home and remind you of what the speaker had said. At the end of the lecture, if you have any queries or doubts, clarify them.











From the desk of Ruskin Bond



Ruskin Bond

IN SEARCH OF A WINTER GARDEN

If someone were to ask me to choose between writing an essay on the Taj Mahal or on the last rose of summer, I'd take the rose—even if it were down to its last petal.

Beautiful, cold, white marble leaves me—well, just a little cold. Roses are warm and fragrant, and almost every flower I know, wild or cultivated, has its own unique quality, whether it be subtle fragrance or arresting colour or loveliness of design. Unfortunately, winter has come to the Himalayas, and the hillsides are now brown and dry, the only colour being that of the red sorrel growing from the limestone rocks. Even my small garden looks rather forlorn, with the year's last dark eyed nasturtium looking every bit like the Lone Ranger surveying the surrounding wilderness from his saddle.

"This won't do; I told myself the other day. 'I must have flowers!' Prem, who had been down to the valley town of Dehra the previous week, had made me even more restless, because he had spoken of masses of sweet peas in full bloom in the garden of one of the town's public schools. Down in the plains, winter is the best time for gardens.

So I took the bus down the hill, and throughout the two-hour journey I dozed and dreamt of gardens. Cottage gardens in the English countryside, tropical gardens in Florida, Mughal gardens in Kashmir, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon!—What had they really been like, I wondered.

And then we were in Dehra, and I got down from the bus and walked down the dusty, busy road to the school Prem had told me about.

I made my way to a wrought-iron gate that would have done justice to a medieval fortress, and found it chained and locked.

On the other side stood a tough-looking guard, with a rifle.

'May I enter?' I asked.

'Sorry, sir. Today is holiday. No school today.'

'I don't want to attend classes. I want to see sweet peas.'

'Kitchen is on—the other side of the ground.'

'Not green peas. Sweet peas. I'm looking for the garden.'

'I am guard here.'

'Garden: 'No garden, only guard:

The guard was unimpressed. And perhaps it was poetic justice that the gates were barred to me now.

Disconsolate, I strolled down the main road, past a garage, a cinema, and a row of eating houses and teashops. Behind the shops there seemed to be a park of sorts, but you couldn't see much of it from the road because of the buildings, the press of people, and the passing trucks and buses. But I found the entrance, unbarred this time, and struggled through patches of overgrown shrubbery until, like Alice after finding the golden key to the little door in the wall, I looked upon a lovely little garden.

There were no sweet peas, and the small fountain was dry. But around it, filling a large circular bed, were masses of bright yellow California poppies.

They stood out like sunshine after rain, and my heart leapt as Wordsworth's must have, when he saw his daffodils. I found myself oblivious to the sounds of the bazaar and the road, just as the people outside seemed oblivious to, this little garden. It was as though it had been waiting here all this time, waiting for me to come by and discover it.



TOM & JERRY

AH! WHAT A LOVELY DAY!
SUN IS SHINING BRIGHT!

THE WEATHER IS SO PERFECT...!

...FOR A FANTASTIC PICNIC!

ONE, TWO, THERE...!

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

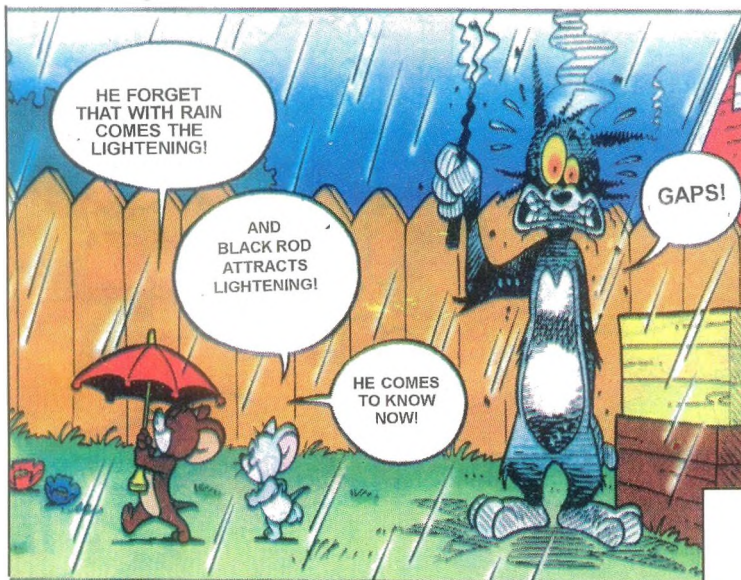
O' COME RAIN!

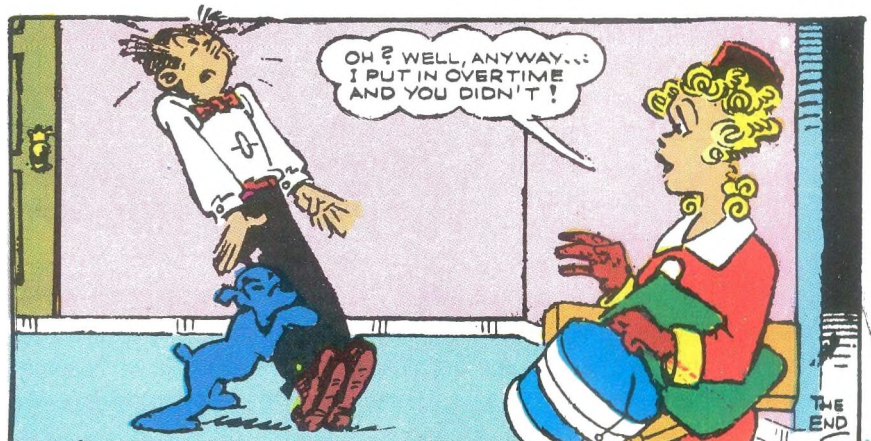
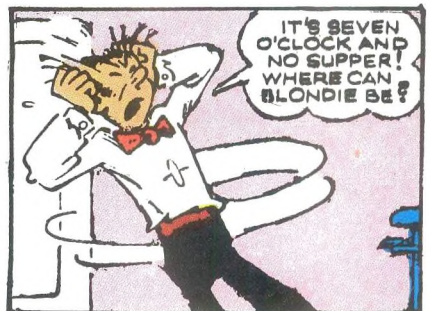
O' COME RAIN!

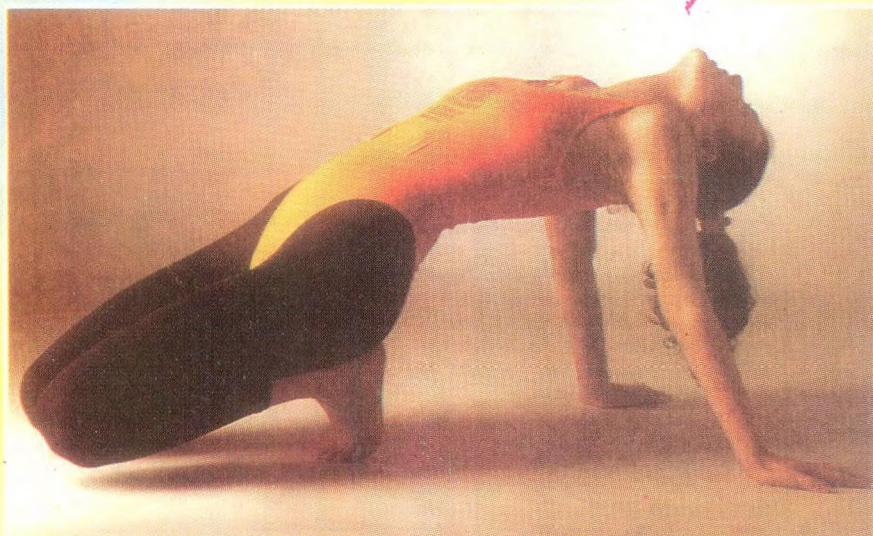
O' COME RAIN.

O' COME RAIN!

O' COME RAIN!







BARRY O' BRIEN QUIZ



Barry O'Brien

KEEP FIT

Do you - hate to get out of bed early in the morning, feel like snuggling between the covers just a wee bit longer, need to catch your breath after walking up a flight of stairs or running a little? If you do, then it is about time you sat up and woke up to the fact that you

desperately need to get into shape. Believe me, I know what I am talking about; I used to feel this way not so long ago. I realised only later that these symptoms were warning me of high cholesterol and a host of other problems that I had been completely unaware of till they actually hit me straight between the eyes. When I thought about it (after a visit to my doctor), I relaxed a bit after I was assured by the doctor that there was no need to panic just yet. There was a very simple solution to my problems - I needed to change my lifestyle from sedentary to active. I think this is something which most of us need to think about after 30, or maybe even earlier. We all start out being active and energetic youngsters - so, what happens, as we grow older? If we look around, we will see that, as a nation, we are getting 'fatter' not 'fitter'. Most men and women are overweight and take less than the minimum amount of exercise required to stay fit and healthy. Why do we need to be active - to tone and firm muscles, reduce stress, blood pressure, cholesterol, risk of heart disease,

strengthen bones, improve stamina, boost the immune system, keep muscles and joints mobile, and above all, improve confidence and self-esteem.

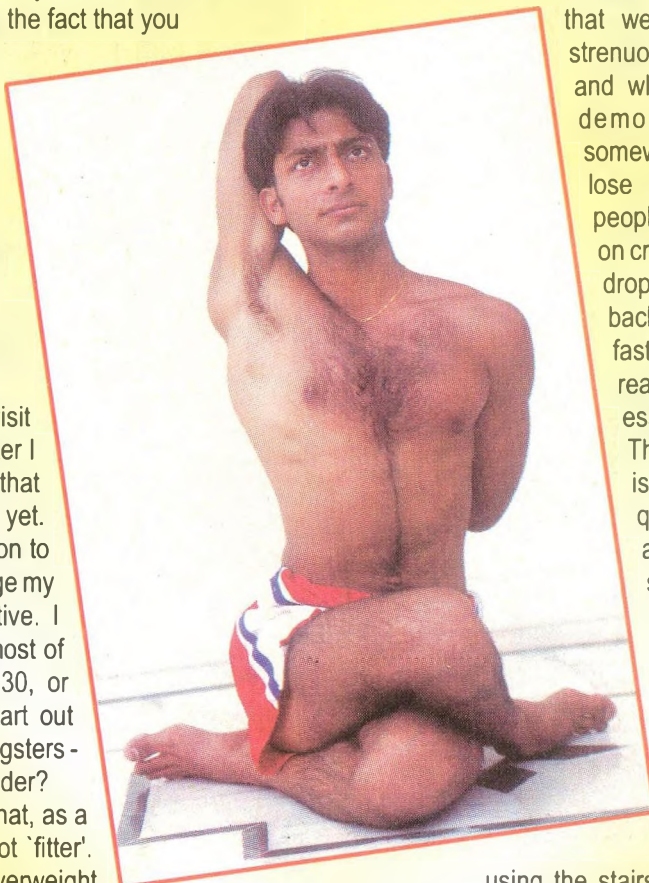
O n e reason why many of us put off getting fit is that we begin enthusiastically and too strenuously as we expect instant results, and when this fails to happen, we get demoralised and give up. Also, somewhere along the line we seem to lose momentum and slack off. Many people struggle with extra kilos and go on crash diets. Initially, the kilos seem to drop off miraculously but they come back again and we seem to gain them faster than we had lost them. What we really lost while on the diet were water, essential minerals and fats.

The good news for 'weight watchers' is that there are ways to lose weight quickly and effectively without adversely affecting health. The secret is to "Eat healthy" and consequently feel better. Combine this with a sensible exercise routine and before long the results will begin to show.

We do not have to be sporty to be active. All we need to do is to start increasing the amount of activity in our daily routine, like

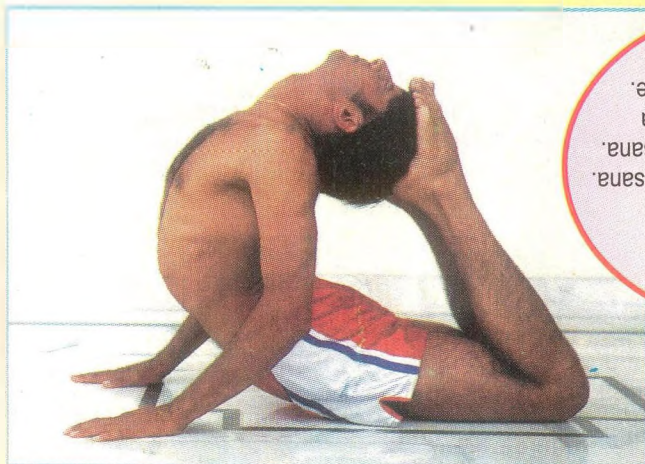
using the stairs instead of the lift, walking short distances, stretching occasionally, swimming, cycling, jogging, taking up an active hobby such as gardening, dancing...

While we become involved in keeping ourselves fit, let us not forget children. We must encourage them to exercise, as this



How much do you know about yoga? Try this quiz to find out.

1. The 'Lotus Posture' brings relief to people suffering from rheumatism. What is this asana called?
2. Which asana (the "Tree Posture") strengthens the spine, waist and legs?
3. In which asana does a person adopt the posture of a snake?
4. If you were to adopt a bow-like posture while doing the asana to trim your waist and stomach, which asana would you be practising?
5. If you were doing the "Trikon Asana", what posture would you be in?
6. A person suffering from thyroid problems would be advised to do the asana in which he/she would have to adopt the 'Plough Posture'. Name the asana.
7. If your weight rested fully on the palms of your hands and your body remained parallel to the ground, what asana would you be doing?
8. The name of which asana means the 'Half moon Posture'?
9. The "Shashang Asana" reminds one of a particular animal which, when scared, tries to hide by bending its head and taking it as close as possible to its knees. Name the animal.
10. In the "Ustrasana" the posture of which animal is adopted?



- ANSWERS.**
1. Padmasana.
 2. Virkshasana.
 3. Bhujangasana.
 4. Dhanurasana.
 5. Triangle Posture.
 6. Halasana.
 7. Mayurasana.
 8. Ardha Chandrasana.
 9. The hare.
 10. Camel.



will make them more likely to remain active later. It is indeed true that outdoor activities, games and sports, and other extra-curricular activities help children to develop both physically and mentally.

Doctors recommend walking as the best way to become fit, lose weight and keep it off. It really works (I speak from

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Which asana must be practised after every few asanas in order to relax the body?

Answer of the Last month's Question:
Amla

experience). It has psychological benefits as well. It lowers stress, tension and anxiety. It has improved my mood and energy levels as I feel that I am actually doing something to improve my health.

Aerobics, jogging, exercise bikes and videos the list could go on and on. But nothing beats 'yoga' when it comes to combining physical fitness with mental health. There are "Asanas" for almost every major and minor ailment.

Send your entry to:

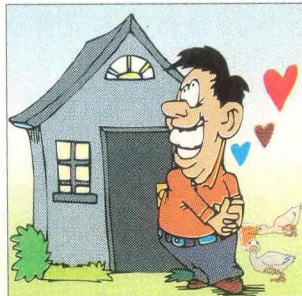
COMIC WORLD

257, Dariba Kalan, Delhi-6

Name.....Age.....

Address.....

Rasna COMIC WORLD FUN K ORNER



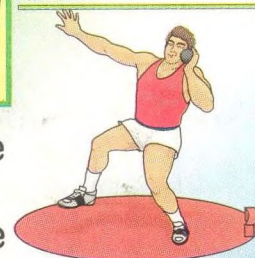
Spot & Tick 10 differences
In the Far Right Picture

win
100 fabulous prizes

How many
people are
there in the Q?



Who can
reach Rasna?



SPORTS QUIZ

First 100 correct entries will get fabulous prizes from
Rasna. The decision of the judges will be final. Our address is:
Rasna & Comic World Fun Korner Contest,
257, Dariba Kalan, Delhi-110 006.

Name
Age
Address

Name
the
Game

Rasna FUNDOO CANDIES FUNDOO TASTE

Rasna presents AQUA FUN and JUNGLE FUN candies.
Enjoy the beauty and splendour of aquatic world.
Dive into the refreshing and adventurous taste of deep oceans with AQUA FUN. Encounter the wild animals of African Jungles. Blaze a trail of fantasy and adventure with JUNGLE FUN.

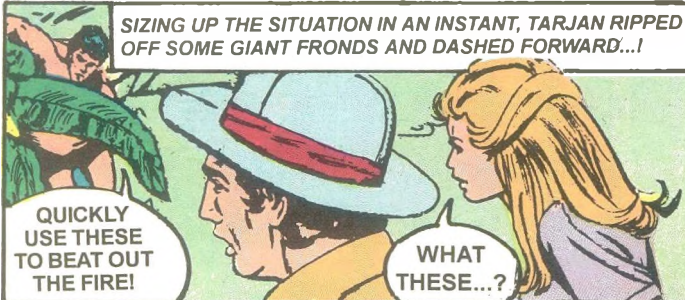
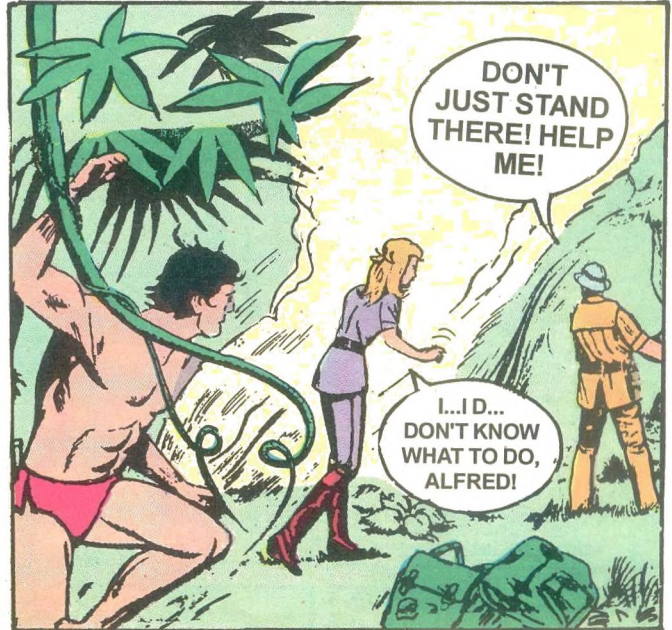
Mudra:RASNA:99/454

Tarzan

FLIGHT INTO THE JUNGLE



WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, THE APE MAN SWUNG THROUGH THE TREES TOWARDS THE PALL OF SMOKE...!

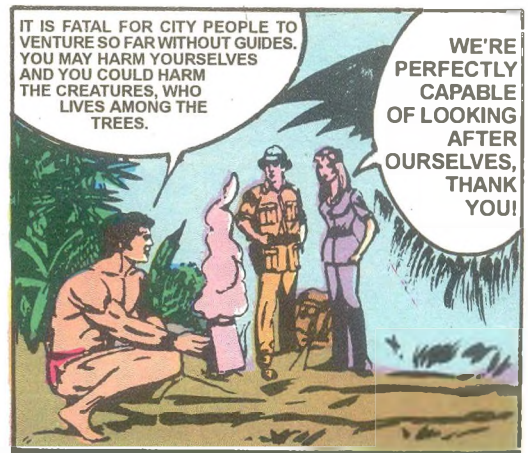
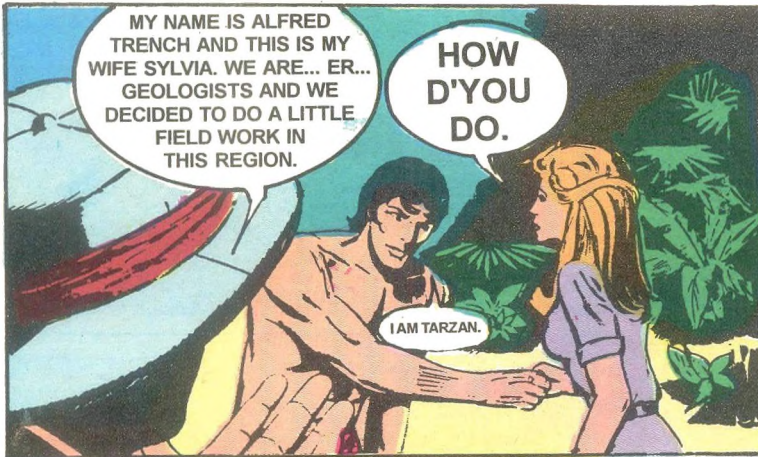


AFTER AN HOUR OF BACK BREAKING WORK, TARZAN AND THE TWO TRAVELLERS GOT THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL...!



THE FIRST RULE OF THE JUNGLE IS ALWAYS TO DIG A PIT FOR YOUR CAMP FIRE... THEN IT WON'T SPREAD.





DURING THAT NIGHT THE TRENCHES CREPT AWAY FROM THEIR CAMP, WHILE THE APE MAN WAS SUPPOSEDLY SLEEPING!

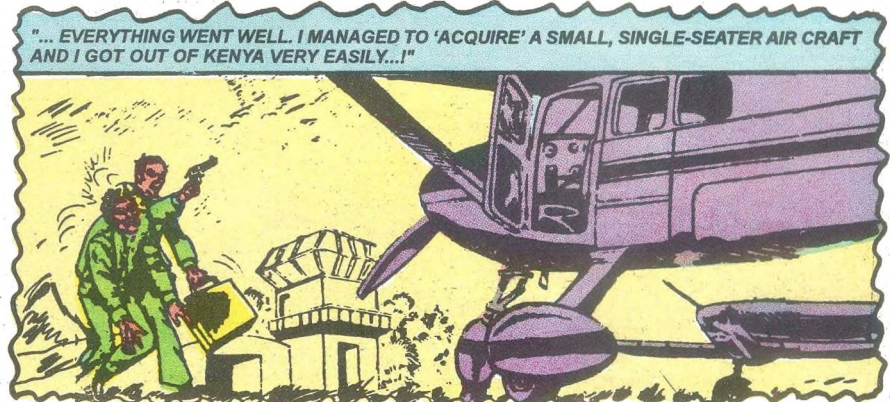
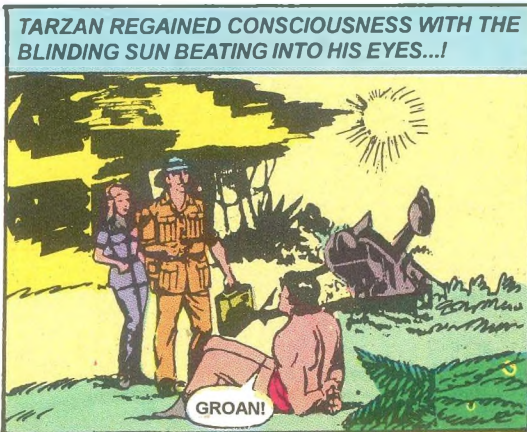
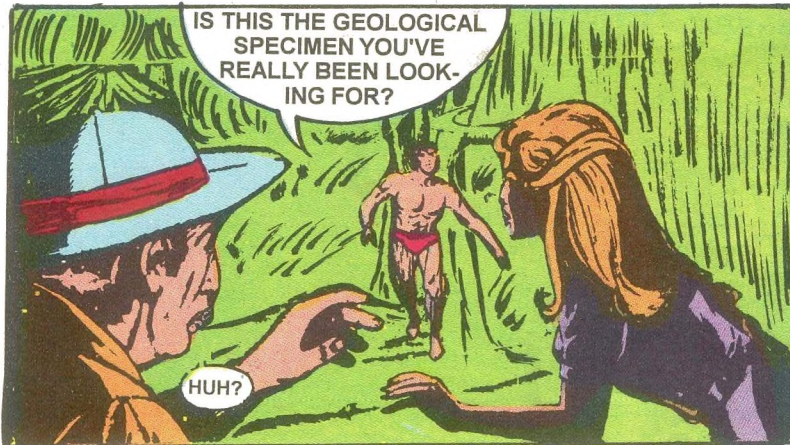


AS QUIETLY AS A LION STALKING ANTELOPE, TARZAN FOLLOWED ALFRED AND SYLVIA THROUGH THE JUNGLE...!

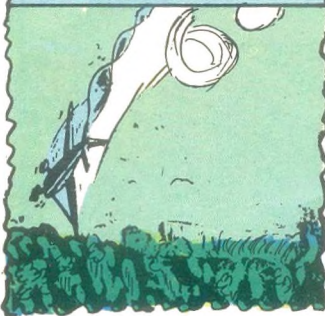


... UNTIL THEY BROKE INTO A CLEARING!





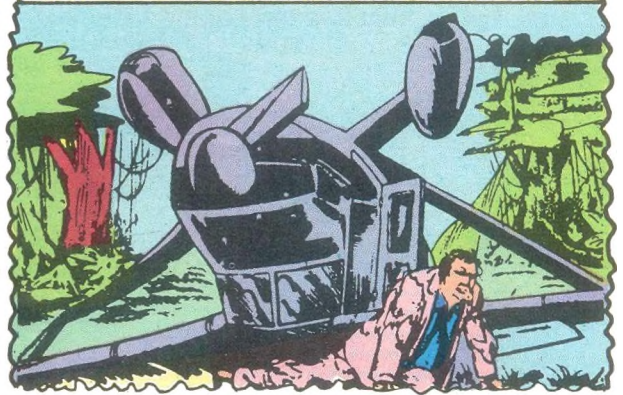
"... BUT THEN THINGS STARTED TO GO WRONG. THE AIRCRAFT HADN'T BEEN SERVICED AND IT PACKED UP OVER THIS DAMNED JUNGLE...!"



"... AND I CRASHED!"



"... I GOT OUT OF THE WRECKAGE WITH MY RIGHT LEG BROKEN...!"



"... I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY DAYS IT TOOK AND I DON'T KNOW IN WHICH DIRECTION I CRAWLED... BUT AFTER HIDING MY MONEY NEAR THE PLANE I CRAWLED... HOPING AGAINST HOPE TO STRIKE CIVILISATION!"



"... I WAS FOUND AND RECOGNISED BY THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER FOR THIS AREA...!"



"... I WAS CONVICTED OF STEALING THE QUARTER OF A MILLION POUNDS...!"



"... AND THE JUDGE SENTENCED ME TO FIVE YEARS IN JAIL!"



BUT I NEVER TOLD THEM WHERE THE CASH WAS HIDDEN!



ALFRED RECKONED THAT IT WAS SMALL RECOMPENSE FOR LOSING FIVE YEARS OF LIBERTY!

NOW I'M A RICH MAN AND WE'LL GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE AND GO TO SOUTH AMERICA, WHERE SYLVIA HAS SET UP FRESH IDENTITIES AND A HOME FOR US.



YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT.

KILL HIM, ALFRED! DO IT NOW!



SLOWLY ALFRED'S FINGER TIGHTENED ON THE TRIGGER...!



BUT THEN...!



I C... CAN'T DO IT, SYLVIA.

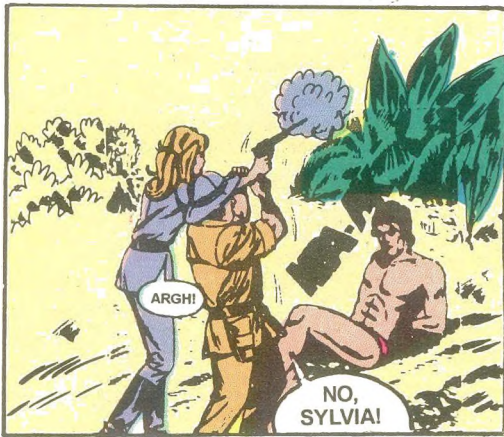
YOU LILY-LIVERED FOOL!

HERE! LET ME DO IT!



FAREWELL, TARZAN!





ARGH!

NO,
SYLVIA!



I'M NOT GOING
TO HAVE A MAN'S
BLOOD ON MY
HANDS.

BUT HE HAS TO
DIE! HE'S THE
ONLY ONE, WHO
KNOWS WE
HAVE THE
MONEY!



HE'S BOUND AND
HELPLESS. IF THE HEAT
OF THE SUN DOESN'T
KILL HIM... THE WILD
ANIMALS WILL!

I THINK IT
WOULD BE BETTER
TO SHOOT HIM.



I C... COULDN'T KILL A MAN
IN COLD BLOOD. IF HE HAS
TO DIE, THEN I'D RATHER
NOT KNOW HOW IT
HAPPENED.

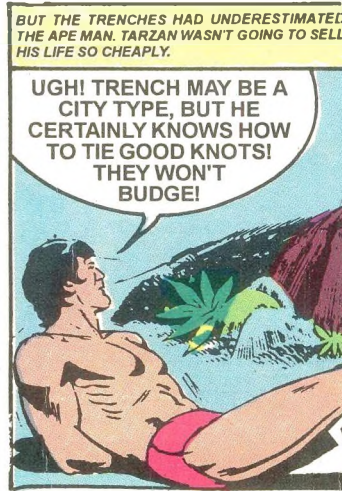
YOU
SQUEAMISH
FOOL!



THE TRENCHES SOON BROKE CAMP...!

SOUTH AMERICA!
HERE WE
COME!

THE
DIFFICULT
PART OF OUR
JOURNEY IS
OVER. NOW
COMES THE
EASY PART.



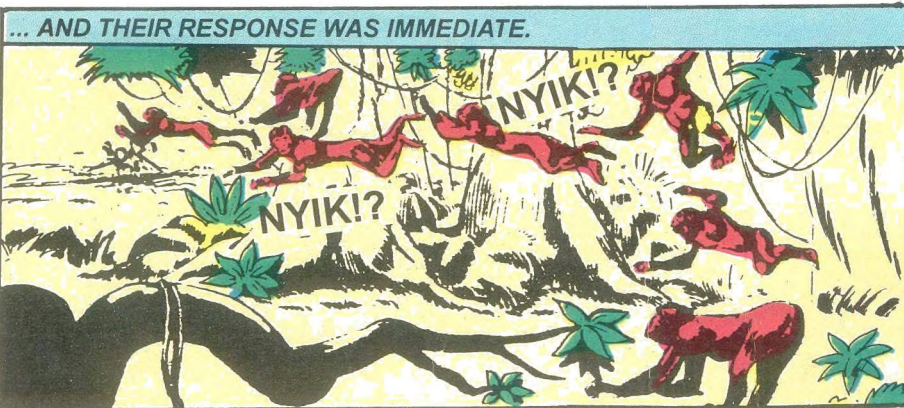
BUT THE TRENCHES HAD UNDERESTIMATED
THE APE MAN. TARZAN WASN'T GOING TO SELL
HIS LIFE SO CHEAPLY.

UGH! TRENCH MAY BE A
CITY TYPE, BUT HE
CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW
TO TIE GOOD KNOTS!
THEY WON'T
BUDGE!



UNDAUNTED, THE APE MAN
CALLED FOR HIS JUNGLE
FRIENDS...!

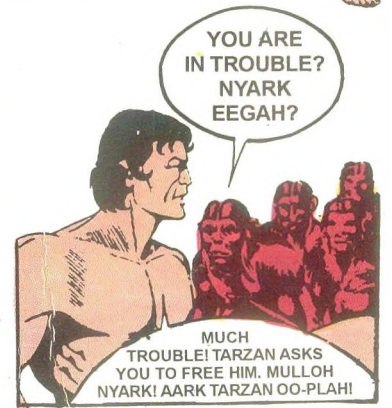
KRCCCHI!
AAAARK!
KREEGAH!



... AND THEIR RESPONSE WAS IMMEDIATE.

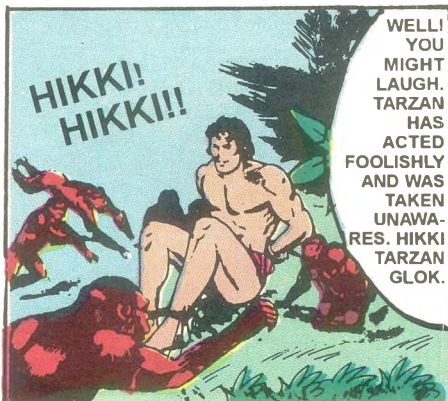
NYIKI?!

NYIKI?!



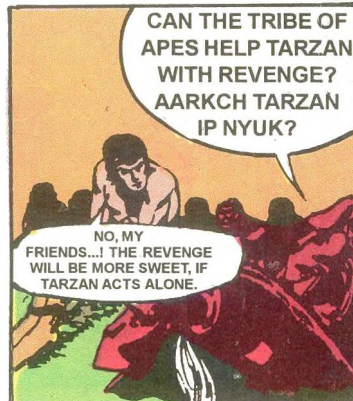
YOU ARE
IN TROUBLE?
NYARK
EEGAH?

MUCH
TROUBLE! TARZAN ASKS
YOU TO FREE HIM. MULLOH
NYARK! AARK TARZAN OO-PLAH!



HIKKI!
HIKKI!!

WELL!
YOU
MIGHT
LAUGH.
TARZAN
HAS
ACTED
FOOLISHLY
AND WAS
TAKEN
UNAWA-
RES. HIKKI
TARZAN
GLOK.



CAN THE TRIBE OF
APES HELP TARZAN
WITH REVENGE?
AARKCH TARZAN
IP NYUK?

NO, MY
FRIENDS...! THE REVENGE
WILL BE MORE SWEET, IF
TARZAN ACTS ALONE.



WE WILL REMEMBER THIS
DAY, OH GREAT ONE. THE DAY,
WHEN THE GREAT TARZAN
WAS MADE HELPLESS. IT WAS
A GOOD LAUGH! NAGAH
'TNIK CLOH-CLOH!

NOW I TOO HOPE
TO LAUGH! FAREWELL,
LITTLE FRIENDS!

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THE TRENCHES PROVED NO TROUBLE AT ALL TO THE JUNGLE MAN.



SOON...!



TARZAN THREW BACK HIS HEAD AND A BLOODCURDLING HOWL REVERBERATED THROUGH THE JUNGLE!

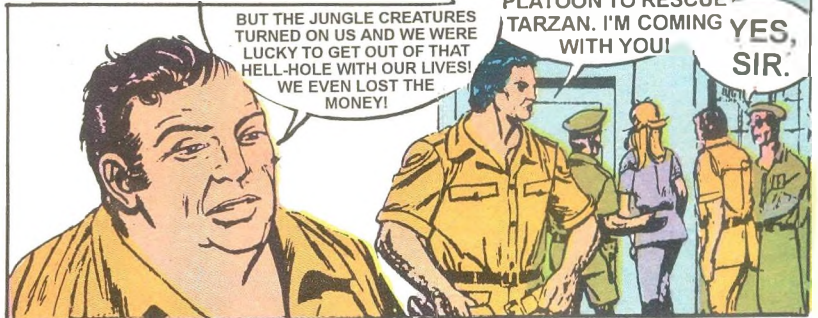


KEEPING WELL OUT OF SIGHT, TARZAN STARTED TO PELT HIS QUARRY WITH OVER-RIPE FRUIT...!

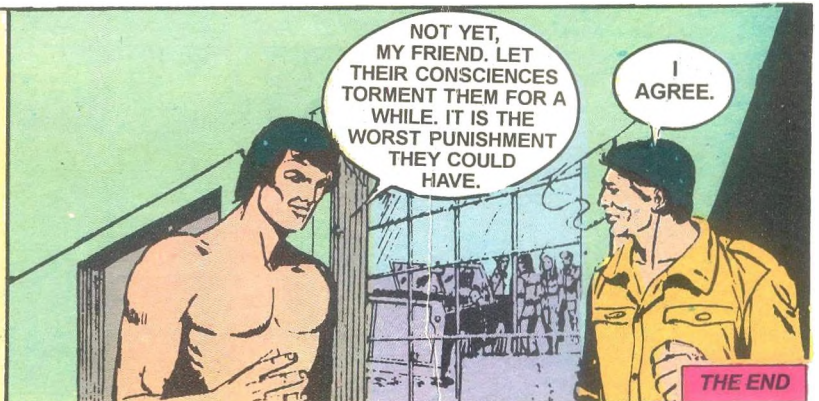




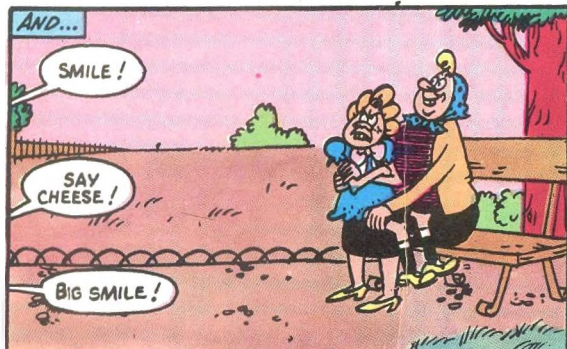
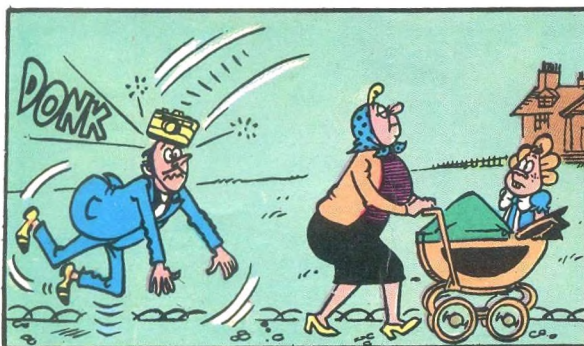
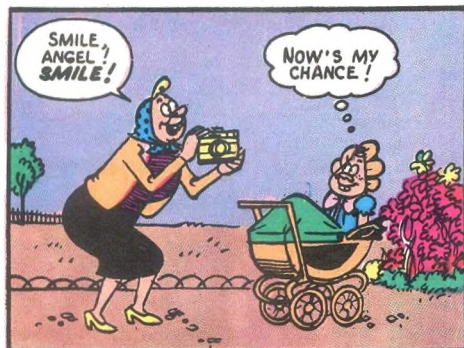
ALFRED TRENCH MADE A FULL CONFESSION TO THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.



TARZAN TOLD HIS FRIEND OF HIS ESCAPE...



Mummy's Boy



BATMAN DARK DANCE

I AM SAINT
DUMAS... HERE
TO GUIDE
YOUR
CRUSADE

AGAIN HE APPEARS, A
DELUSION IMPLANTED IN
MY MIND, A VISION AS
REAL AS PAIN

YET YOUR
PAST GUIDANCE
CREATES CONFLICT.
FIRST TELLING ME TO
BECOME DARKER...
THEN TO FOLLOW
THE LIGHT

THE CONTRADICTION
LIES AT THE HEART
OF WHAT YOU HAVE
PLEGGED TO
BECOME... A FORCE
OF DARKNESS
BRINGING LIGHT...
SALVATION
WROUGHT FROM
TERROR.

AND HE
SPEAKS
NO MORE.

I PASS THROUGH DELIRIUM
AS THE VISION FADES,
STANDING FOR A MOMENT
OUTSIDE MYSELF, TEMPORA-
RILY TWINNED, BRIEFLY
BOTH... ANGEL AND DEMON.

AND THIS, I
DECIDE, MUST
BE THE
GUIDANCE.

I WAS FOLLOWING HER,
WHEN SAINT DUMAS TOOK
MY MIND... AND SHE SEEMED
READY TO ENTER THIS
BOATHOUSE.

BUT WHAT OF THE WOMAN?
SAINT DUMAS SAID NOTHING
ABOUT CATWOMAN, NOR
ABOUT MY DARK DREAMS...
AND DARKER OBSESSION?

SHE MUST BE
IRRELEVANT TO THE
QUEST... ONLY HER
THREAT POSSESSED
OF MEANING... ONLY
THE NEURO
TOXINS, WHICH
COULD DESTROY
GOTHAM.

WHETHER ANGEL,
DEMON OR BOTH, I MUST
STOP THAT THREAT.. BY
STOPPING HER.

THE STORAGE FACILITY,
WHERE SHE COMMITTED
HER THEFT... IT'S
SECURITY NOW TRIPLED,
BUT ONLY AFTER THE
XYKLON-C HAS BEEN
STOLEN, WHEN THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT TO
GUARD.

STUPID.

THE NEUROTOXIN... AND SHE
DIDN'T MOVE IT FAR... LEAVING IT
IN THE LAST PLACE THE POLICE
WOULD LOOK-WITHIN FIFTY
YARDS OF THE SCENE OF
HER CRIME.

SMART.

BUT WHERE
IS SHE?

HPOKETTA!
POKETTA!

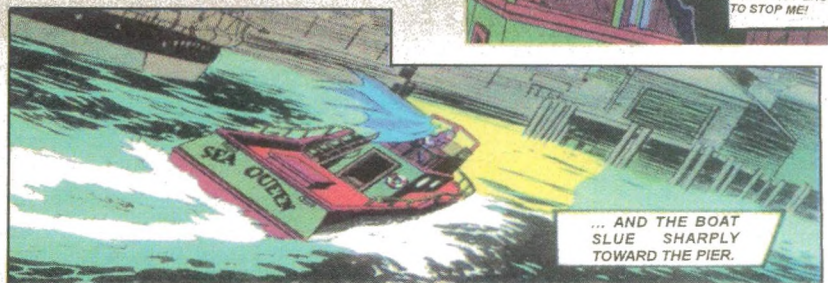
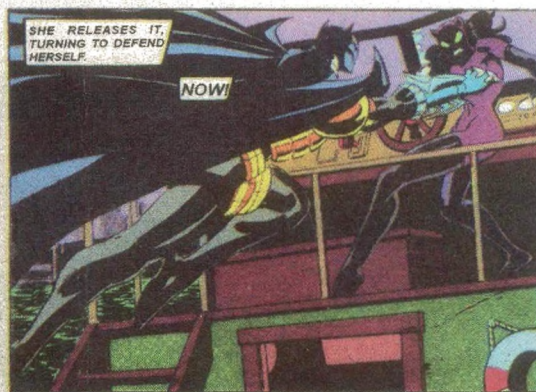
... BUT I'VE FORCED
HER HAND.

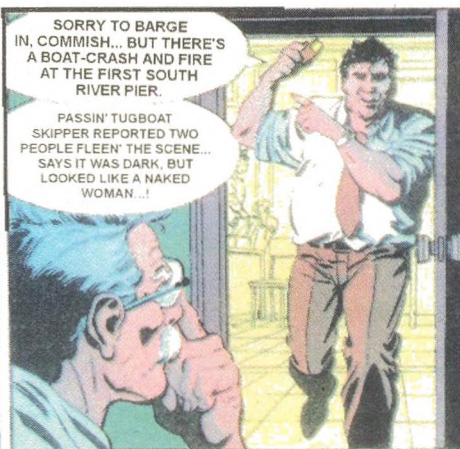
KUHL

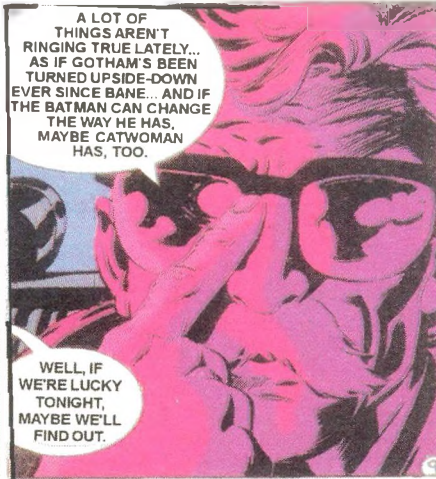
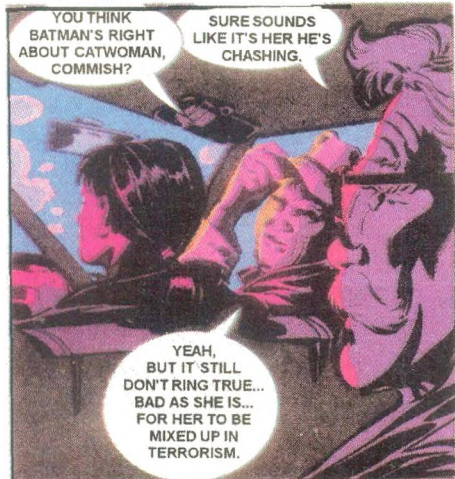
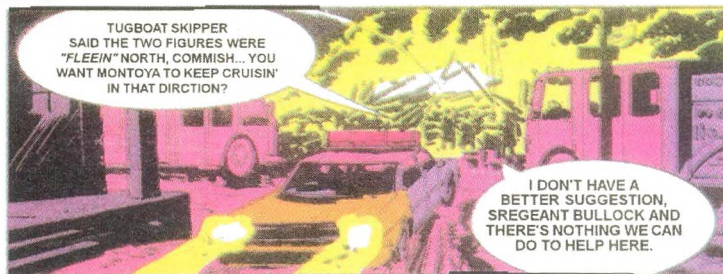
NOTHING BUT A
MOTOR-LAUNCH...
AND...!

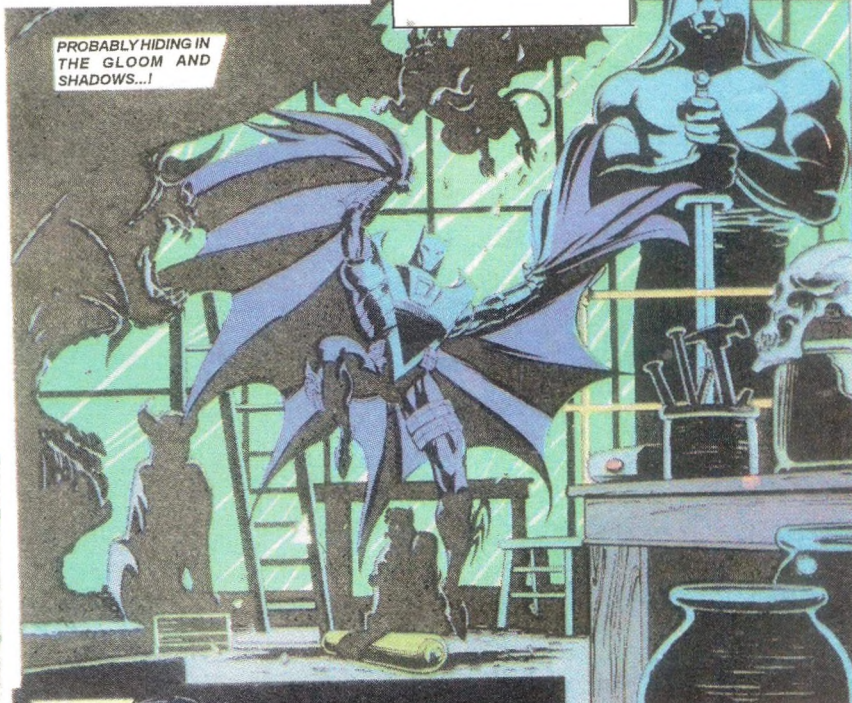
SOMETHING
COVERED BY
THAT TRAP?

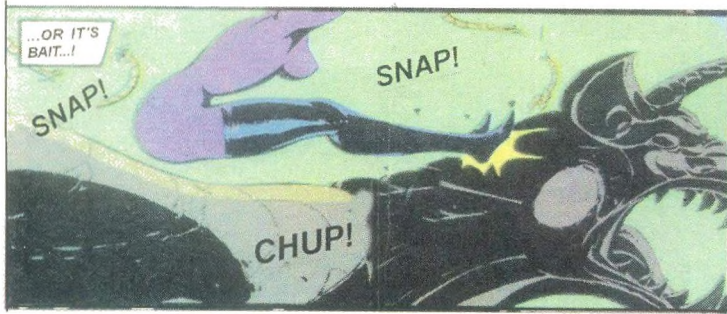
SEA QUEEN















SPIDER-MAN



WE KNOW HIM AS PETER PARKER... BUT THE WORLD KNOWS HIM ONLY AS SPIDER-MAN!

SAY! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT BEFORE? THERE'S THE WAY I CAN MAKE SOME MONEY--BY JOINING THE FANTASTIC FOUR!



THEY'LL PROBABLY JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO HAVE A TEEN-AGER WITH SUPER POWERS WORKING WITH THEM! IT'LL BE A NATURAL!



HERE'S THEIR PRIVATE ELEVATOR, BUT THE BLAMED THING ISN'T WORKING!

UH OH-- I FORGOT! IT CAN ONLY BE OPERATED BY ONE OF THE FOUR, USING A SPECIAL ELECTRONIC BEAM!



WELL, THAT WON'T STOP SPIDER-MAN! FORCING A COUPLE OF LOCKED DOORS OPEN IS MERE CHILD'S PLAY FOR--MECK! I DIDN'T FIGURE THE ELEVATOR WOULD BE ABOVE ME! NO ROOM TO CLIMB PAST IT!



MINUTES LATER, PETER PARKER REACHES THE ROOF OF AN ADJOINING BUILDING...

WELL, THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT! I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF THIS RIGHT AWAY!



THEY'LL PROBABLY BE TWICE AS IMPRESSED WHEN THEY SEE HOW EASILY I GET INTO THEIR PRIVATE SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS!



HERE GOES NOTHING!



MEANWHILE, DOWN BELOW...

IT'S THE SPIDER-MAN! WHAT A BONUS I'LL GET FOR THIS SHOT!



AT THAT MOMENT, AN ALARM RINGS IN THE READY ROOM OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR...

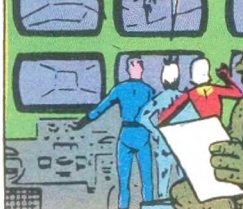
THE ALARM! SOMEONE IS TRYING TO SNEAK IN!



THERE'S HIS PICTURE ON OUR VIEW-PLATE! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

WHY DIDN'T HE PHONE FOR AN APPOINTMENT, LIKE ANYONE ELSE?

'CAUSE HE'S A TEEN-AGE CORNBALL SHOW-OFF, JUST LIKE THE TORCH!



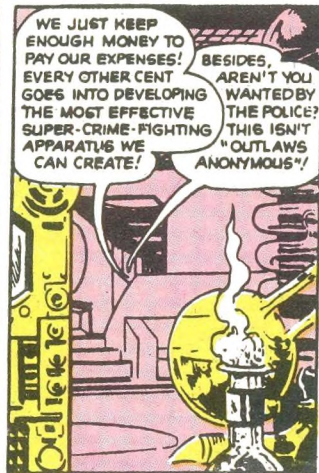
HOW OBLIVING OF THEM TO LEAVE A WINDOW OPEN FOR ME! THIS IS A BREEZE!

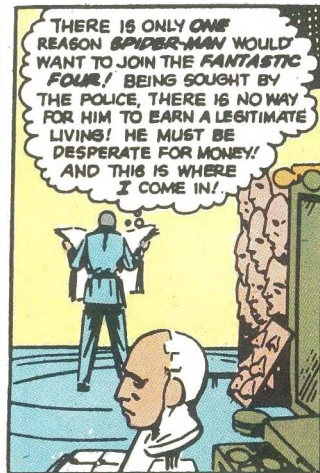
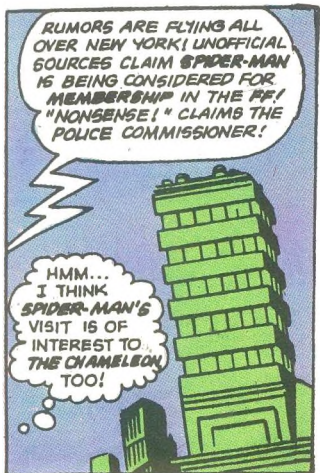
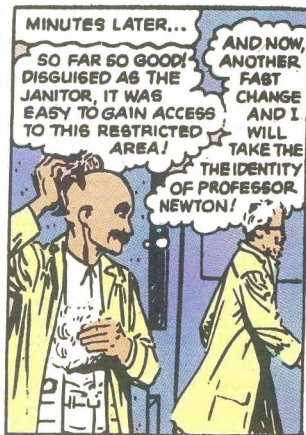
ACTIVATE DEFENSE MEASURE B, JUST TO BE SAFE!



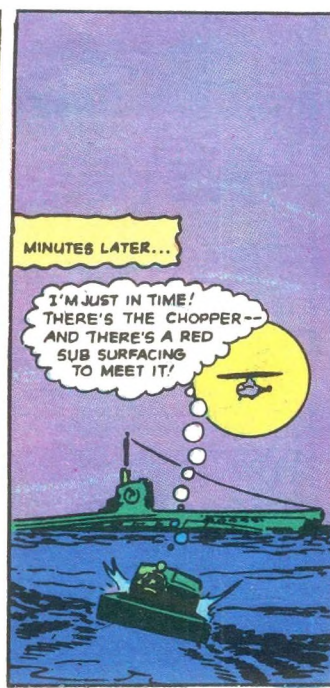
GREETINGS, GROUP! YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE IT SO EASY FOR PEOPLE TO DROP IN ON YA!













I'LL LOOK IN HERE, MEN!

I'LL TAKE THIS CORRIDOR! AND I'LL HEAD FOR THE STREET UNDER YOUR VERY NOSES!



BUT AGAIN THE CHAMELEON HAS RECKONED WITHOUT SPIDER-MAN'S SUPERNATURAL SPIDER'S INSTINCTS...

THAT TINGLE I FEEL! MY QUARRY IS CLOSE-- WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE!



HE'S WISE TO ME! IF I CAN JUST PULL THIS FUSE--

ONE OF THESE COPS MUST BE A PHONY!



HE'S DOUBT THE LIGHTS! BUT THAT WON'T STOP ME! I CAN STILL SENSE HIM IN THE DARK!



I'LL JUST SHOOT MY WEB OVER-- OH, NO!

I'M ALL OUT OF THE SPECIAL FLUID!



I'VE GOT TO REACH THAT EXIT BEFORE HE DOES! THIS IS THE FASTEST WAY!



THAT FIGURE-- LEAVING THE OTHERS-- IT'S HIM!



BUT, AS THE LIGHTS GO ON AGAIN, THE CHAMELEON RESORTS TO ONE, LAST, DESPERATE RUSE...

HELP! GRAB HIM! IT'S THE CHAMELEON, DISGUISED AS SPIDER-MAN AGAIN!

WHA--?



OH, NO, YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT GONNA FOOL US THAT WAY A SECOND TIME!

WAIT!... HE'S LYING! I AM SPIDER-MAN!

IT WORKED! NOW TO SLIP AWAY!



IN A FIT OF WHITE-HOT FURY, THE POWERFUL SPIDER-MAN WRNCHES FREE OF THE STARTLED OFFICERS' GRASP, AND...

LOOK AT HIM GO UP THAT WALL! HE WAS THE REAL SPIDER-MAN!

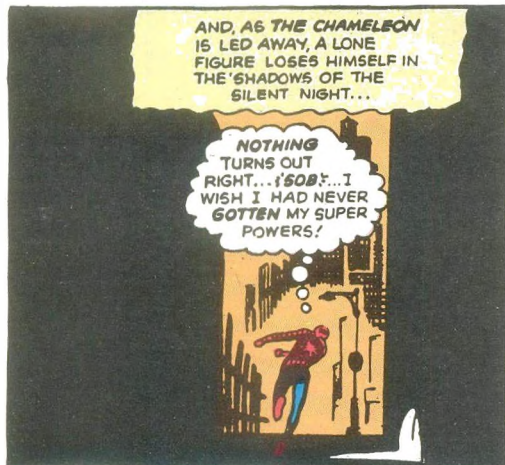
EVERY TIME I TRY TO HELP, I GET INTO WORSE TROUBLE! WELL, THEY CAN CATCH THAT SPY THEMSELVES NOW!



AND WITHIN MINUTES, CATCH HIM THEY DO...

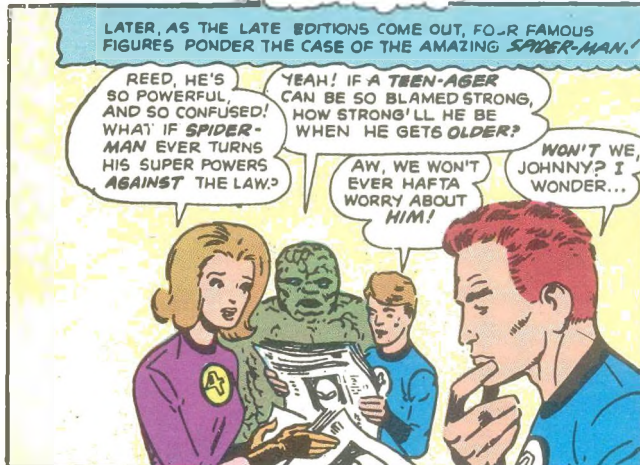
HERE HE IS, CAPTAIN! I SPOTTED HIM BY HIS TORN UNIFORM-- I COULD SEE HIS OTHER DISGUISE BENEATH IT!

BLAST IT! I MUST HAVE RIPPED IT IN MY SCUFFLE WITH SPIDER-MAN!



AND, AS THE CHAMELEON IS LED AWAY, A LONE FIGURE LOSES HIMSELF IN THE SHADOWS OF THE SILENT NIGHT...

NOTHING TURNS OUT RIGHT... I SOBBY... I WISH I HAD NEVER GOTTEN MY SUPER POWERS!



LATER, AS THE LATE EDITIONS COME OUT, FOUR FAMOUS FIGURES PONDER THE CASE OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

REED, HE'S SO POWERFUL, AND SO CONFUSED! WHAT IF SPIDER-MAN EVER TURNS HIS SUPER POWERS AGAINST THE LAW?

YEAH! IF A TEEN-AGER CAN BE SO BLAMED STRONG, HOW STRONG'LL HE BE WHEN HE GETS OLDER?

AW, WE WON'T EVER HAFTA WORRY ABOUT HIM!

WON'T WE, JOHNNY? I WONDER...

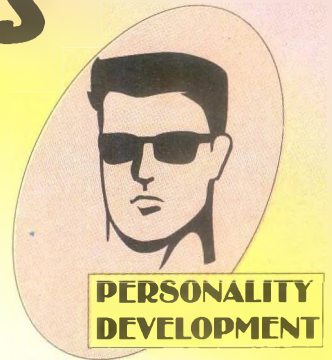


AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL HAVE TO WONDER-- UNTIL OUR NEXT GREAT ISSUE! DON'T MISS IT!!

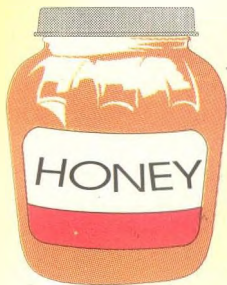
The END

INTERESTING FACTS

Foods you can use as Medicine



I'm sure you have heard the phrase "You are what you eat". Well did you know that certain foods can also be used as remedies.



Honey: has antibacterial properties that can help heal cuts and open sores. Place a sterile gauze pad saturated with honey over the wound, and put a dry gauze pad on top of the first one.

Chicken Soup: combats the common cold. The broth has mild antibiotic effect

because it contains an amino acid chemically similar to a drug used to treat respiratory infections.

Yogurt: Keeps yeast infections away.

Blueberries: contain a compound that has antibacterial properties effective against the bacteria that's the chief villain in most cases of diarrhea.

Gingerroot: works wonders against nausea caused by motion sickness and migraines. So when you study a lot and feel a migraine coming on place several slices of fresh gingerroot into a cup of water simmer for ten minutes and enjoy.

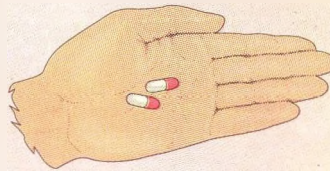
Bananas: are great for people with a sensitive stomach. The fruit acts as an antacid.



Danger in the Diet Pills

A drug called fen/phén has been enthusiastically promoted to help obese patients lose weight, but it may also lead to serious heart problems. Some fen/phén users developed

a heart condition in which waxy tissue coats the valves preventing them from closing completely. The best advice is less food and more exercise.



Fatness is a Vicious Cycle

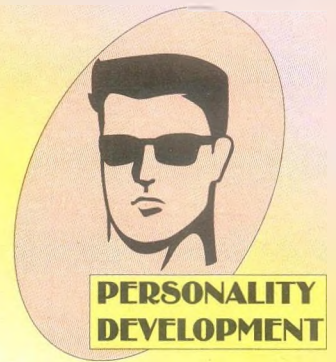
The more fat you have, the more your metabolism changes to favor the build up of even more fat. Weight gain only happens when we have so excessively overeaten and under exercised that we exceed the capacity of the muscles to hold internal fat. Exercise increases the metabolic rate, increases the amount of muscle, raises the caloric consuming enzymes inside the muscle, and increases the burning fat.



Did you know that if you exercise while you are a teenager you will have less chance of getting a pot belly later on in life?

TEENS

TROUBLESHOOTING



"Into each life a little rain must fall"

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

It never rains; but it sure does pour.

Being a teenager or pre-teen in the twentieth century is kind of like being a ship on the ocean. Sometimes it's all smooth sailing and sunshine. Other times, you may just be drifting lazily in no particular direction, letting the wind direct your sail. On the ocean, though, storms develop quickly and can sneak up on you. One day, you look up and find that the clear sky has been replaced by pitch darkness. Violent thunderheads have replaced the puffy, cotton clouds. The wind is tossing your ship like a beach ball and you're afraid that you'll crash up against the jagged boulders near the shore. Suddenly, just as you're about to give up, out of the darkness flashes a brilliant light! It's a lighthouse! There are MANY lighthouses out there that can warn or comfort you--they can be people, or something deep inside of you that still hasn't given up. Maybe you'll find some of these lighthouses on our pages than our effort will have been worth it.

Teen-problems

On making and keeping friends: Friendships are flowers in the garden of life

The best advice anybody could probably give you is to treat people the way that you would want to be treated. "Don't play stupid--there are too many people out there who are naturally better at it than you are." If you act like somebody else, nobody's going to like the REAL you anyway! --Sonya Friedman. Don't make the mistake of being your worst enemy! "Choose your friends wisely, you become what they are." Avoid negative influences. Respect yourself--don't let



people take advantage of you or put you down. Real friends know the real you--and they STILL like you!!

Take time to really listen. ***"I never ask a wounded person how he feels; I myself become the wounded person."*** --

Walt Whitman

Practice compassion and trying to understand what other people are going through.

It's a wonderful idea to find a close friend you can trust who you think gives good advice. This person can help you sort out your problems and reach decisions in difficult situations. Build support systems for yourself! Also, learn how to keep a secret!!

"Promises may get friends but 'tis performance that keeps them."

--Benjamin Franklin

Peer Pressure

When you overstep your own boundaries, you are going to feel really crappy. Listen to your heart. Trust your instincts. It's isn't easy to do what you think is right when all around you people are shouting that you're wrong. But if you can keep your head when everybody else is losing theirs, then you can do anything. Staying true to yourself is essential to success

Self Esteem

Take care of yourself. This means avoiding negative people and thoughts. Pessimism is a waste of time. Become an optimist! Then turn the statement around and make it positive. Use affirmations. Resist the temptation to compare yourself to others--this will only lead to resentment and unhappiness. "Envy is ignorance...imitation is suicide."--Ralph Waldo Emerson Finding inspiring role models is okay, though. Have a sense of humor!

Learn to laugh at yourself and don't take life too seriously. Smiling has actually been proven to improve people's moods. Did you know that you can cheer yourself up by cheering up other people? Ask for hugs when you are blue! Learn to forgive yourself and others. **LET THE NEGATIVE FEELINGS GO!** Watch them fly off into the clear blue sky and be burned into the sun. You don't necessarily have to be friends with people who have hurt you or even forget what they have done to you (forgetting may not even be possible), but let go of all the negative feelings about them which you have allowed to poison your soul. Develop a sense of self-worth by doing little (or big) things that you find meaningful and positive. It can be volunteer work or just listening to your friends when they have problems.

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." --Theodore Roosevelt

Deal with parent and other

Opening the Lines of Communication

If you want to be treated like an adult, then you have to act like one. People will ignore you if you throw tantrums. Approach you parents at a time when you think they are open to listening to you. Don't ask them when they are rushing out the door because they are late for work. Say "Mom (or Dad), I have something really important to discuss with you." Good Luck!

Depression

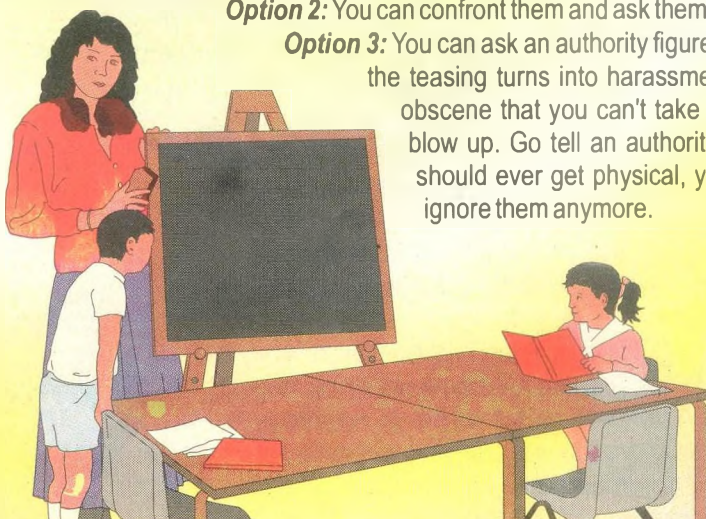
1. Depression is a widespread mood disorder common among teenagers and people between the ages of 25 to 44. Being a teenager is such a difficult time because your body is changing so quickly and your head and heart are constantly struggling to catch-up. You are experiencing many new sensations and emotions for the first time. Life can be so confusing! Being a teenager is sort of like riding a roller coaster. It's exciting and scary at the same time.

So how can you tell if you or somebody you love is depressed?

2. Isolating themselves, both physically (maybe by not hanging out with friends anymore) and by emotionally withdrawing themselves from other people (maybe by not talking to parents or friends anymore), is a sign that a person may be depressed.

3. Insomnia, loss of appetite, overeating (also known as bingeing), low energy, fatigue, headaches, bodily aches and pains, and upset stomachs are common complaints among depressed people.

4. If you are sad all the time, have negative feelings toward your future or just about life in general, have suicidal thoughts, or have low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness and guilt, you may be suffering from depression.



There are many different reasons people may experience depression.

Some types of depression are genetically linked and are often treated using drug therapies. The environment causes other types of depression. Environmental factors like divorce, alcoholism, abuse, job-loss, not doing in well in school, and fighting with parents and family can lead to depression.

Traumatic events like rape, incest, death of a loved one, and physical injuries are also environmental causes of depression. People suffering from depression as a result of environmental factors could benefit from counseling or a combination of drugs and counseling.



School Stress

If your school offers a study skills workshop of some sort, TAKE IT!! As soon as you start getting confused, alert your teacher. Chances are if you have a question, somebody else has the same one! Don't think that you're bothering a teacher or slowing down a class by asking a question: you're in school to learn. As a student, THAT IS YOUR JOB!! Teachers are in school to communicate important information in ways that you can understand: IT'S THEIR JOB!! So if anybody asks, you're just doing your job! Ask teachers if you can stay after school for some extra help, too. Being organized is the easiest way to stay on top of schoolwork.

People teasing me

Option 1: You can ignore these comments and hope that they soon find something better to do. This is good for light teasing.

Option 2: You can confront them and ask them to stop.

Option 3: You can ask an authority figure to talk to them. If the teasing turns into harassment and is just so obscene that you can't take it anymore, don't blow up. Go tell an authority figure. If things should ever get physical, you can't afford to ignore them anymore.

TEENS

TROUBLESHOOTING

10 Tips to Cope with Stress



1 Make a daily plan or a "to do" list. It helps you organize your busy day. Making a list helps you keep track of items so that you don't have to waste energy thinking about all the things you should do.

7 It's okay to say "no" to family and friends when you are too busy. Don't get caught in the "Superwoman" or "Superman" trap, decide for yourself what your priorities are important.

2 Most students have to balance their lives with multiple commitments to family, friends, community and school activities, and schoolwork. But you must realize it is okay to negotiate your time in each area of your life to bring all your various roles into balance.



8 Wishing you could change the past or that things could be different is an emotional trap. Trying to change your friends and family is not possible. Accept others for whom they are, and just concentrate on making yourself the best person you can be.

9 If you cannot relax or sleep you should seek to find the cause of your sleeplessness and address the problem directly. Admit you have a problem and then seek advice and help.

3 Regular exercise helps strengthen your physical and emotional system to withstand stress. Exercise increases the presence of natural brain chemical endorphins that makes you feel better.



10 Using alcohol to reduce stress is just not cool. Alcohol is a depressant, not a stimulant. Work out your problems in healthy ways by exercising and talking with people who care about you.

4 Make sure you get enough sleep. Too much activity and not enough sleep prevent your body from staying in balance.



5 Laugh a lot. When you are in a really stressful situation ask yourself this question "If the thing that is causing stress will seem so important in five years?" Most likely the stress will fade away. So laugh and stop worrying.

6 Give yourself "Time Out" just to relax. The time doesn't have to be long; maybe a half hour to an hour but let you have this period just for yourself. You deserve it.



SMOKING



For the majority of people smoking is far from a foreign concept, we all have encountered the issue of smoking at one time in our lives or another and we probably will run into it many times in the future as well.

Teens continue to smoke despite all the warnings of the hazards of smoking and the numerous deaths that have resulted from smoking. Many feel that just one smoke couldn't hurt - after all, it is only one smoke - no big thing, when in reality that one puff often leads to more puffs and well, to put frank, that all will eventually lead to addiction.

Cigarettes contain NICOTINE; a harmful chemical that is addictive meaning once your body has grown accustomed to the nicotine it will want and need more nicotine. Nicotine is a dangerous thing to be trying or doing; it is only one of the many harmful chemicals contained in cigarettes. One puff of a cig contains 4,000 chemicals and all those chemicals are sent to your blood, lungs and brain.

Smoking decreases the amount of the brain enzyme monoamine oxidase B (MAO B). MAO B is a brain enzyme that helps to break down dopamine (a chemical messenger that is associated with feelings of pleasure), and a lack of MAO B could mean lack of motivation or a sense of depression and so forth. Nicotine, like other addictive substances, increases dopamine levels in the brain.

Sure you may not inhale...but what about the smoke you are getting from the other people around you? Yes, you are still at risk. Even though a person does not smoke they are at risk for lung cancer, asthma, and other serious lung diseases. Exposure

to secondhand smoke can do just as much damage as the act of smoking itself. Nope, sorry to say children won't be able to recover from exposure to smoke at such a young age. Children and teens are still growing and that means that their lungs are growing as well. We are all at risk when it comes to smoking.

One must wonder why people light up every day; something must be going on here... Watson, the game is afoot! Why do people smoke? Fitting in seems to be a big factor for a large number of teens. It is hard to turn down a friend who has just offered you a puff. You

don't want your friend to think that you are some sort of dumb but still you are kind of curious to see what the big deal is about smoking.

Curiosity to find out what the sensation of smoking is like can also motivate a person to light up and try it out. Smokers report that the reason they still are smoking is that smoking gives a feeling of pleasure.

How Smokers Get Hooked

Go ahead; take your first puff on the cigarette. Your body gets a blast of 4,000 chemicals that fill your lungs, blood, and brain. Each cigarette has about 2mg of nicotine, an addictive drug.

But guess what, it is not only the nicotine that sends you craving for another cigarette, your brain also gets effected. Research has shown that smokers had 40% less of a brain enzyme known as monoamine oxidase B or MAO B. The enzyme breaks down dopamine, a chemical messenger in the brain associated with feeling of pleasure. The nicotine may leave an imprint in the brain, so that the next drug becomes more pleasurable. So now, do you still want to light up your first cigarette?



NO SMOKING

Sydney2000

OLYMPIC STADIUM

The centrepiece of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games is also the largest outdoor venue in Olympic history. The Olympic Stadium has a capacity of 110,000, and four Boeing 747s would fit side-by-side under the span of the main arches of the grandstands.

The stadium has already hosted a number of major sporting events.

These include a rugby league double header that drew a crowd of 104,583 in March 1999, two international football (soccer) events, and an American NFL pre-season game between the San Diego Chargers and the Denver Broncos. The rugby union Bledisloe Cup match played here on 28 August 1999, between the Australian Wallabies and the New Zealand All Blacks, attracted a crowd of 107,042 - a world record for a rugby union match.

For the Games, a continuous lower seating bowl will surround the athletics track, flanked on both sides by two permanent roofed grandstands and by temporary open grandstands at the ends. After the Olympic Games are over, the stadium will be reconfigured to seat 80,000.

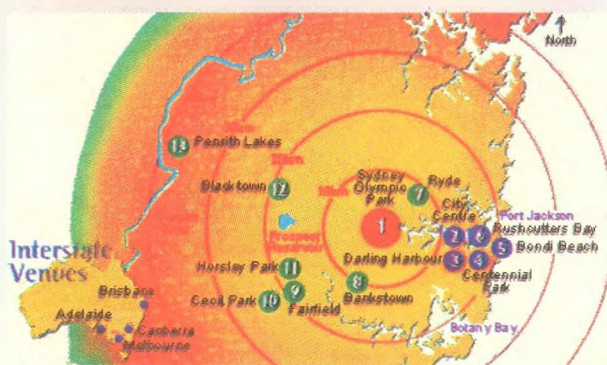
Specially designed for the unique Australian environment, the stadium is one of the few in the world which effectively shades and protects most spectators, without the need for a claustrophobic and grass-killing fully enclosed dome. Suspended from a huge arch structure and three hectares in area, the roof is constructed from translucent polycarbonate to minimise the shadows and patches of direct sunlight on the playing area. This will create ideal conditions for TV presentations and for spectators.

Green design

The Olympic Stadium's design includes

state-of-the-art environmental features that make it a showcase of ecological responsibility. Its energy management strategy reduces the use of conventional electric power through measures such as natural lighting, two gas-fired co-generation engines, and energy-efficient lighting.

All materials have been selected for their contribution to minimising pollution, conserving resources, and their durability. Significant waste management and water-saving measures are also in place.



Other Venues

Archery Centre

Baseball Stadium

Beach Volleyball Centre

Blacktown Olympic Centre

Brisbane Cricket Ground

Bruce Stadium

Convention Centre

Road Cycling Course

Dunc Gray Velodrome

Entertainment Centre

Equestrian Centre

Hindmarsh Stadium

Hockey Centre

Marathon Course

Melbourne Cricket Ground

Mountain Bike Course

Olympic Stadium

Penrith Whitewater Stadium

Regatta Centre

Ryde Aquatic Centre

Sailing Marina

Shooting Centre

State Sports Centre

Super Dome

Sydney Aquatic Centre

Sydney Football Stadium

Tennis Centre



The Forthcoming Issue of the

COMIC WORLD

is the **Olympic Special** Issue packed with exclusive reportage, past-present-future of the game and tit-bits of Sydney2000

Don't forget to buy & book your copy today

Sydney 2000
Olympic Games

Must See Sydney

Every international city has its icons - the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty, the Kremlin - symbols of identity no self-respecting tourist would miss.

It's all very well to sneer and reject the heavily trodden paths to famous sights, but there are usually very good reasons for their popularity. Here are five compulsory attractions for visitors to Sydney.

Sydney Opera House

With its white, sculptural 'shells' rising from the harbour foreshore at Bennelong Point, the Opera House is Sydney's most recognisable building and, officially, one of the seven wonders of the 20th century. Joern Utzon, the Danish architect who designed the Opera House and was sacked before it was completed, ascribed the inspiration for his masterpiece to the sails of yachts on the harbour, the mandarin segments, ribbed palm leaves as they fan out, and cloud forms. Others have described it as a sunbathing armadillo or fornicating tortoises. Inside, the Opera House has five theatres.



Sydney Harbour Bridge



One of the world's most recognised bridges, Sydney's Harbour Bridge has a number of affectionate nicknames. The Coat Hanger is an obvious reference to the distinctive grey arch; the Iron Lung refers to the fact that the construction of the Bridge during the Great Depression provided precious employment for many workers (although 16 died before the project was finished).

The bridge was the vision of John Bradfield and it must have been a

great day for him when, after nine years of building and six million rivets, the two arches finally met over the harbour on August 19, 1930. March 19, 1932, the Bridge was officially opened.



BridgeClimb

OK, so it's a teeny bit tacky (must be the revolving restaurant stigma) but on a clear day, you can't beat it for views. The 305-metre tower is ideal for visitors to get a feel for Sydney's geography, and you can even watch the seals at Sydney Aquarium through the free telescopes, which are spaced regularly around the observation deck.

Darling Harbour

The appeal of Darling Harbour is the sheer number of attractions contained in this pedestrian precinct, including the Maritime Museum, Sydney Aquarium and IMAX Theatre. On a sunny day, the wandering crowds contain both tourists and Sydneysiders.



Bondi Beach

Arguably one of Sydney's best strips of sand, and certainly its most famous, Bondi Beach is well worth a visit. Not the place for seclusion, but great for watching the passing parade, both on the beach and in the shops and cafes across the road. The cliff walk around to Tamarama and Bronte is not to be missed.

Perhaps Australia's, and in fact, the world's best-known beach, Bondi is a microcosm unto itself. A lively, bustling area, Bondi is full of beautiful people, near-bare bodies, not to mention your basic beach lover. Bondi Beach has everything catered for, apart from seclusion. Don't go here if a deserted beach is what you're after.

You can enjoy the swimming pool, wading pool, rock pools, surfing, fishing and scuba diving, even roller blading along the promenade. Take a short stroll across the busy Campbell Parade, and you'll be faced with literally hundreds of shops, cafes, restaurants, bars and hairdressers.



FEATHERED SENTINEL: Hamish, a bird of prey sits on the hand of its keeper Wayne Davis as it pecks at its accreditation card on the Number One Court at Wimbledon. Hamish has been officially accredited to scare pigeons and other small birds away from the tennis complex.



SPORTS

RHYTHMS UNDER WATER: The Russian synchronised swimming team performs during the Technical preliminary at the European Swimming Championships in Helsinki, Finland.



BURNING RUBBER: German formula one driver Ralf Schumacher spins in a curve of the Magny-Cours circuit during the first free practices for the upcoming French formula one Grand Prix in Magnycours, central France.



Andre Agassi returns to fellow American Todd Martin during their men's singles second round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon.

The Olympic flame is carried on a camel by Jamali Bintalib in Broome, Western Australia. The Olympic torch is spending 100 days travelling around Australia on its way to Sydney for the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games on September 15.



Canada's Andrea Neil fights through the defence of Guatemala's Cindy Campos during their Women's Gold Cup match at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in Louisville, Ky.



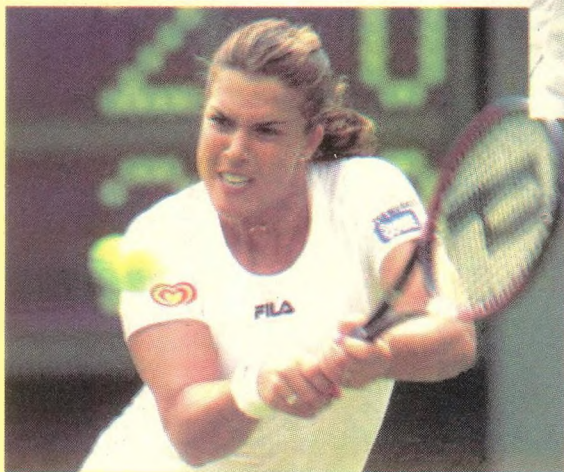
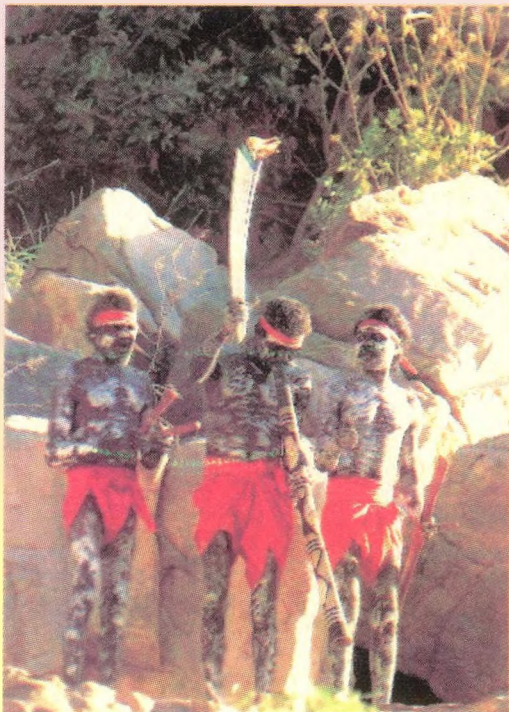
SMART VOLLEY: Martina Hingis returns a shot from China's Jing-Qian Yi during their women's singles second round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon.

One of the elders from the Jawoyn tribe holds up the flame during a torch relay on Nitmiluk, Australia. The Olympic torch is spending 100 days of its travelling around Australia on its way to Sydney for the September 15 opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

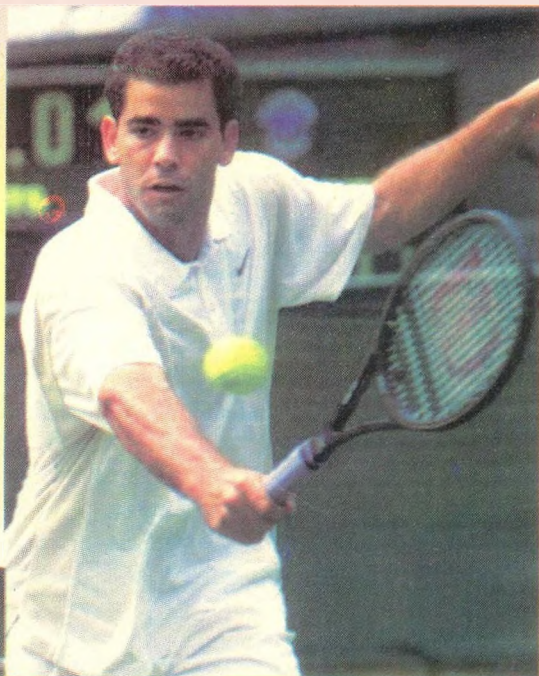
SPORTS

Jennifer Capriati of the U.S. plays a return to Belgium's Dominique Van Roost during their Women's Singles first round match on the Number One Court at Wimbledon.

Wendy Craig Duncan carries the Olympic flame underwater of Agincourt reef, Queensland, Australia. The Olympic torch continues to travel to Sydney before lighting at the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games on September 15.



CHAMP'S SHOT: Defending champion Pete Sampras plays a backhand return to Jiri Vanek of the Czech Republic, during their Men's Singles first round match on Wimbledon's Centre Court.



Masami Tanaka of Japan swims the women's 100 metre breaststroke to a pool and meet record of 1:09.13 at the 2000 Swim Meet of Champions in Mission Viejo, California.



Con Verevis (right), the first torchbearer for the 1956 Torch Relay, is escorted by an escort runner Mathew Kidner during the Olympic Torch relay in Atherton, Queensland.



The Olympic torch continues its journey to Sydney to light up during the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games on September 15, 2000.



THE PATRIOT

Starring: Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Tcheke Karyo, Jason Isaacs, and Lisa Brenner.

Directed by Roland Emmerich.

Produced by Dean Devlin, Mark Gordon and Gary Levinsohn.

Written by Robert Rodat.

Distributor: Columbia Tristar



Benjamin Martin is a reluctant hero who is swept into the American Revolution when the war reaches his home and threatens his family. A hero of the fierce French and Indian conflict, Martin had renounced fighting forever to raise his family in peace. But when the British arrive at his South Carolina home and endanger what he holds most dear, Martin takes up arms alongside his idealistic patriot son, Gabriel, and leads a brave rebel Militia into battle against a relentless and overwhelming English army. In the process, he discovers the only way to protect his family is to fight for a young nation's freedom.



ME, MYSELF & IRENE

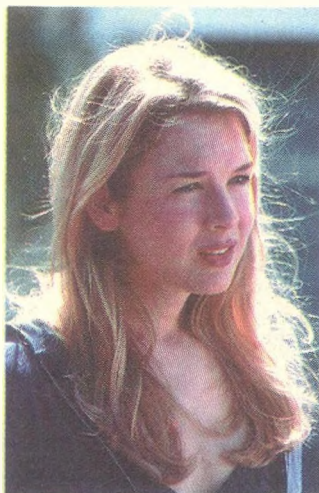
Starring: Jim Carrey, Renee Zellweger, Tony Cox, Jerod Mixon, and Jerry Monga Brownlee.

Directed by Peter Farrelly and Bobby Farrelly.

Produced by Peter Farrelly, Bobby Farrelly and Bradley Thomas.

Written by Peter Farrelly, Bobby Farrelly and Mike Cerrone.

Distributor: Twentieth Century Fox



Met Charlie Baileygates, a 17-year veteran of the Rhode Island police force. Charlie is mild-mannered, hard working, always helpful, and a devoted and loving father to three sons. Unfortunately, Charlie has Split Personality Disorder, and when he runs out of his medication; meet Hank Baileygates, Charlie's hypersensitive alter ego. Hank's got a filthy mouth, drinks like a fish, breaks skulls and loves dirty, dirty sex. Charlie and Hank have nothing in common with the exception of Irene Waters, a beautiful woman on the lam with whom they have both fallen in love. Now, Hank/Charlie must wage war - with himself-for the confused Irene's affections.

CHICKEN RUN



Starring: Julia Sawalha, Mel Gibson, Miranda Richardson, Tony Haygarth and Phil Daniels

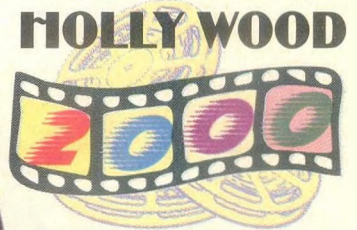
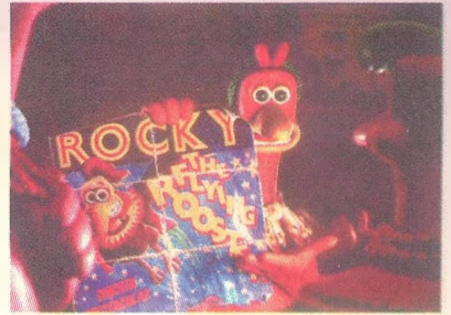
Directed by Nick Park and Peter Lord.

Produced by David Sproxton, Nick Park and Peter Lord.

Written by Karey Kirkpatrick and Jack Rosenthal.

Distributor: Dreamworks SKG

A comedy drama set on a Yorkshire chicken farm in 1950s England, the story follows the turbulent romance between Rocky the Rooster and Ginger the chicken, both of whom yearn for freedom and are planning a daring "prisoner of war" style escape. Both chickens are tired of being repressed and know they face an eventual certain death, so in planning their escape, they rally with their fellow chickens.



BOYS AND GIRLS

Starring: Freddie Prinze Jr, Claire Forlani, Jason Biggs, Heather Donahue and Amanda Detmer

Directed by Robert Iscove.

Produced by Jay Cohen, Murray Schisgal and Lee Gottsegen.

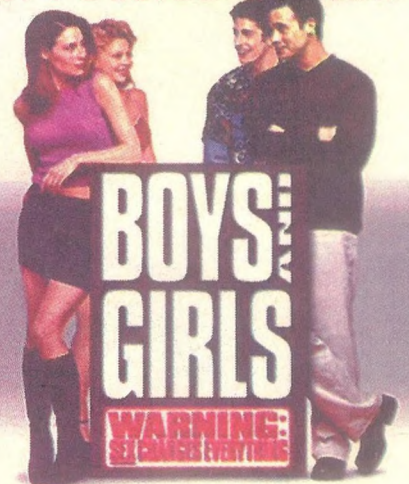
Written by Andrew Lowery and Andrew Miller.

Distributor: Dimension Films

Ryan and Jennifer are opposites who definitely do not attract. At least that's what they always believed. When they met as twelve-year-olds, they disliked one another. When they met again as teenagers, they loathed each other. But when they meet in college, the uptight Ryan and the free-spirited Jennifer find that their differences bind them together and a rare friendship develops. Now with the help of their roommates - the wacky and ever hopeful Hunter and the flirtatious Amy - they're about to find out what men really want, what women definitely need and what happens to friends when going for it goes too far.



OPPOSITES ATTACK



CITROEN XSARA PICASSO



The Citroen Xsara Picasso is a futuristic, practical and refreshing design. I may sound a bit unreasonable here, but the Picasso, while being an intelligent design, is zilch to look at. The French made cars that were handsome like the Peugeot 205 and weird like the Citroen 2 CV. But they were never beautiful outright. Yes, that includes the Citroen DS.

The Jaguar XK8 and the Ferrari 456 are equally beautiful automobiles. Mention their names anytime and I can guarantee you goose pimples. Actually the XK8 is one of the best looking, drop-dead gorgeous cars around today and the 456 M - one of the best-looking



cars ever to have rolled out of the Maranello plant. The XK8 manages the incredible feat of looking both elegant and menacing and can match any Ferrari four seater for attractiveness. The designers at Pininfarina had to make a Ferrari and hence they stopped short of creating a Mercedes S-class contender. Both are sports cars and hence, reference points to four-seater performance automobiles. However, for the very same reason they are compromises too. It is easy to make a sports car look beautiful but tough to make a good design look good.

MERCEDES BENZ S-CLASS

The Mercedes Benz S-class may be the best automobile built in the last one hundred odd years. It is prettier than most of its predecessors too and instead of a grumpy, nose-in-the-air, super rich look, the new Benz flashes an elegant smile, proclaiming



your arrival to the world. It is tough to fault the design and looks attributes of this one Mercedes. I have driven one in test track conditions and seriously, on a good day with a good driver behind the wheel, the S-meister will be a serious threat to some of the legendary sports cars.

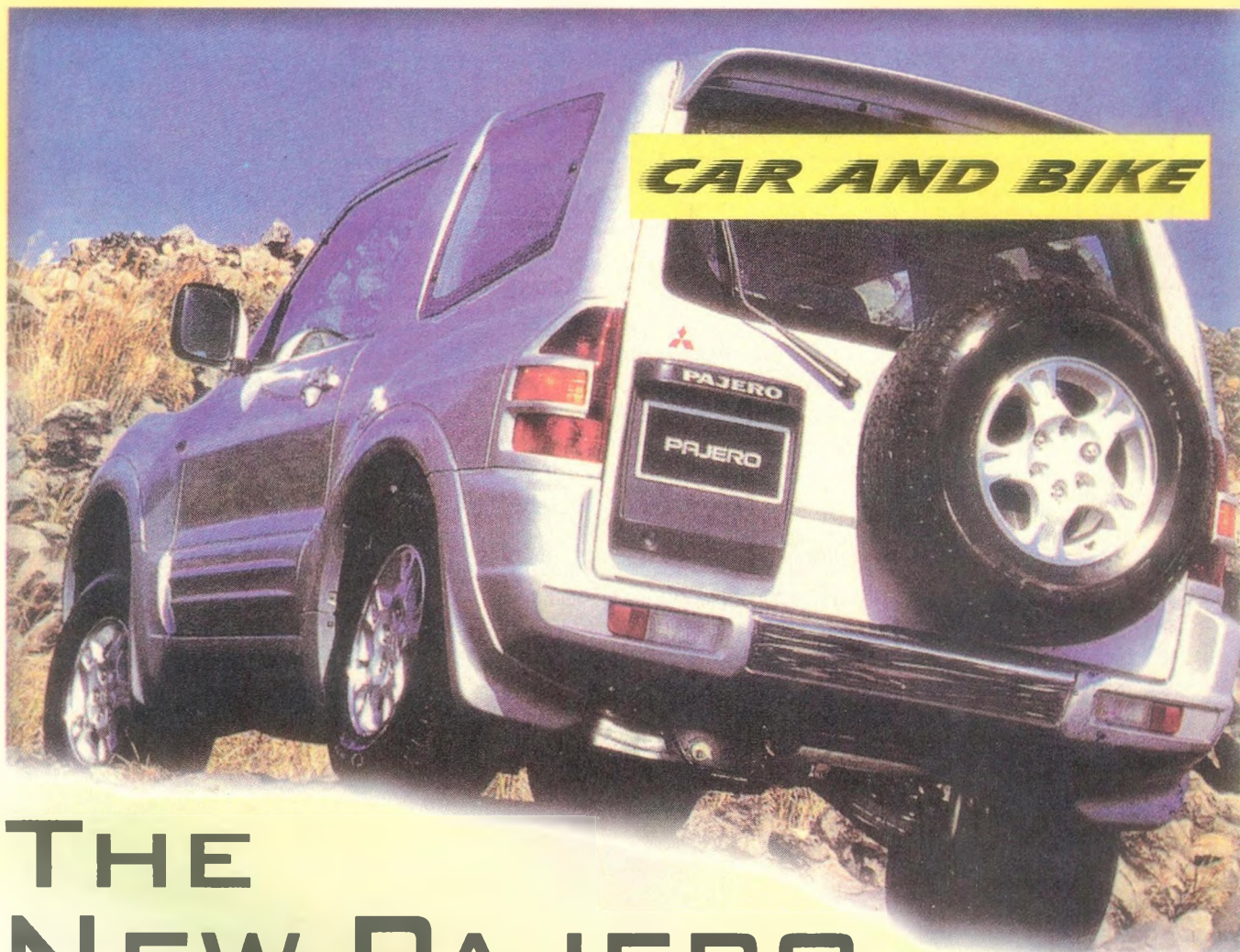
CAR AND BIKE

Porsche 911 Turbo

The Porsche 911 Turbo is a fascinating car to look at, Both powerful and beautiful. But as a design, it is still wrapped in history. From the days of the Type 356 to the early 911s and today's water-cooled creations, the Coke bottle shape and scintillating performance of the car made it sell. If it were written way back in the 70s, it would have been the winner, even against a Ferrari Daytona.

Sadly again, nostalgia is one ingredient that shaped the new 911 than intuitive design and we have no option but to drop it. Great car to look at, but one that carries too much historical baggage and moreover, is a difficult design to live with. It is sad, but even the Porsche 911 needs an association with the past to support its claims.





THE NEW PAJERO

The difference between the Pajeros you see currently on our metro roads and the one launched at Tokyo is that the New Pajero is a radically different beast. It may look as if it has evolved from the same gene-pool, since Mitsubishi's designers have made it a point to retain major styling cues, especially on the body-shell. The most important change however, is under the skin. Structurally, a transition from the classical body-on-chassis layout to a monocoque structure has taken place. Similar to most modern cars and few smaller SUVs like the Toyota RAV4 and the Honda CRV, the new Pajero, according to Mitsubishi literature, benefits from a monocoque structure with a built-in-frame. The vehicle is based around a one piece, lightweight shell with high levels of bending- and torsional-rigidity. Technically, this means the new Pajero will not exhibit a negative handling-response lag between the body and frame. But in the same breath, purists might argue that a body-on-frame construction is important for serious off-

roading. As if to prove a point, Mitsubishi entered the new Pajeros in the event where these vehicles have been the ones to beat for almost a decade the Paris-Dakar rally (this time Paris-Dakar-Cairo) and won the class again with ease.

But the fact remains that most Pajeros remain city slickers and on pavement, the new Pajero will be a better bet than the one that it replaces. The monocoque structure will mean that the driver will be more 'connected' to the road and the steering will be crisper and more responsive. The centre of gravity has been lowered, ground clearance increased and overall body weight reduced, making the new on-off roader a more comfortable highway and inter-city cruiser, as far as the driver is concerned.

One can expect the Pajero to offer better handling and cornering stability too, thanks to an all-new, all-wheel independent suspension system. According to Mitsubishi, the new double wishbone front and rear multi-link systems with coil springs on both ends complement the new monocoque body delivering no-lag on/off road response and stability and ride comparable to a luxury sedan.

CAREER LINE



Pervin Malhotra

I am a student of Class XII with physics, chemistry, mathematics and biology as subjects. Could you please tell me whether, given a choice, girls should prefer to study BE or MBBS? This will help many like me take a right decision. What is the prevailing statistics of women in these careers?

Making a career decision is not the easiest thing in the world. But please don't let mere statistics guide your choice of career. Numbers don't count. Your calibre does. While there may be relatively fewer women in the traditional branches of engineering like civil or mechanical which involve working outdoors, on site, or on the factory shop floor, there are any number of hot-shot electronics and computer engineers who are women. And the same goes with doctors.

Both medicine as well as engineering are top-of-the-line professional courses which leads me to believe that you are keen on pursuing a professional career. It is therefore very important to go by your interests, aptitude and inclination rather than conforming to outdated beliefs and assumptions. Which is certainly not to belittle certain practical considerations. For instance, if you are keen on medicine but do not savour the prospect of being on call round-the-clock, you may opt for fields like dentistry, ophthalmology or dermatology for instance which pose fewer emergencies. But remember that if women continue to do only what other women have earlier done, they're bound to remain confined to conventional age-old stereotypes.

I am in Class X and am interested in pursuing a career in computers. Will it be possible if I settle for Arts or Commerce stream?

Yes, you can pursue a career in computers even if you opt for the Arts or Commerce stream at +2 level as the eligibility for BCA course is a pass in Class XII with any stream and likewise for MCA course, the qualification is graduation in any discipline (though some institutions stipulate Mathematics/Statistics as a subject at the undergraduate level).

Besides, a good background in Mathematics at the +2 level will definitely help you in the long run.

I wish to become a theatre actor. Could you please

tell me about the selection procedure at the National School of Drama, New Delhi.

The National School of Drama (NSD), established by the Sangeet Natak Academy, offers a three-year PG Diploma in Dramatics. The course consists of Dramatic Literature & Aesthetics, Theory & Practice of Acting, including components of Mime & Music and theory & Practice of Stage Technique.

Eligibility is graduation in any discipline with experience of actively participating in at least ten theatre productions. There upper age limit is 30 years. The selection procedure is rigorous. There are only 20 seats for this course. After the initial screening and written test which is held in four centres (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Calcutta), nearly 80 applicants are called for a five-day workshop that forms part of the selection process.

Admitted candidates do not have to pay tuition fee. Instead they get a stipend of Rs 2000 per month. Living expenses, including mess charges, are deducted from this stipend.



Pervin Malhotra
Director, CARING (Career
Information & Guidance)



Friends,

This column is specially designed to help you in solving your problems about your career. Without any hesitation write to us about your problems. Please send a self addressed duly stamped envelope too.

-Editor

COMPUTER LESSONS FOR KIDS AND TEENAGED

CRISPY
CHIPS



The Record Comparison

One way of understanding something is to compare it to something that you already know.

LP Records

First of all what basically is a file? One comparison is to records, I mean the record player, 33 RPM vinyl records that have been replaced by CD's. If you are too young to remember these, then just think of audio CD's.

If you look at the surface of a record, you can see where each of the 'cuts' or songs is. Each one of these songs represents a file. It is a file of audio information, that can be understood and turned into music by your stereo player. Each *song file* has a title, a length and a location on the record.

Each *computer file* has a title, a length and a location. We cannot make use of the contents of a *computer file* without a computer and a program to understand the file. We can't make use of the *song file* without a stereo that has been programmed to understand that type of record. Although all *song files* are essentially the same, we classify them as rock, classic and so on, according to what is inside the file. We do the same with computer files. We call them graphics files, text files and programs, depending on what is inside the file.

Having songs on a record or CD is not hard to understand, and yet they are very similar to computer files, so files in a computer system can't be too hard to understand either. One of the things you often do with computer files is to copy them, from one place to another. With records, you can copy a song from the record to a tape, but you can't copy it to another record.

Computer files can be copied more easily. The reason for this is that a stereo player can only play files, it can read them and turn them into sound and put that sound on the output

device, the speakers. This is what is meant by read only files. But a stereo player can not write files, whereas a tape deck can and a computer can.

The computer can read files and put them on the output device. It can also *write* files. It has to be this way or you wouldn't be able to copy files. So while songs on a record and *computer files* on a hard disk are very very similar, the one major advantage that computers have is that they can make the files. It's like you have your own recording studio for computer files!

On a LP Record, you may have about a dozen files (songs). It is not too hard to keep track of 12 files. You can quite easily pick up the needle and put it down on the 4th file. Even if a computer hard drive was limited to about 12 files, you still can't see them. So in a computer system, there is no such thing as the 4th file over, but, instead, you just refer to the files by their names.

It you want DOS to put 'play' the file called wp.exe, you simply type wp . Or, if you want to see what is inside a file, you can use the DOS command type and tell DOS to type readme.txt . DOS will 'play' the file readme.txt .

While the old records had about 12 files, modern hard drives can have many thousands of files. This could be very difficult to organize. That is the reason, and I guess the only reason, that there are *directories*, so you can organize all your files. Which leads up to the next lesson!



Darjeeling



THE QUEEN OF HILLS

There is nowhere quite a place like Darjeeling "Queen of hills" which nature has chosen with care and blessed it with beauty and lush greenery of the tea garden. It is far from the maddening crowds of the metros.

There is no finer place than Darjeeling to steep yourself in the grandeur and beauty of the towering snow-capped mountains. Its a fascinating place where you can see Buddhist monasteries, visit a tea plantation and see how the tea is processed, spend days for bargains in colorful markets and handicraft shops or go trekking to high altitude spots near the border with Sikkim.

There is lovely verdure every where- fir and pines. The views over the mountains to the snowy peaks of the Kanchenjunga and down to the swollen rivers in the valley bottom are magnificent. Darjeeling has been very popular hill station, since the British established it as an R & R Center for their troops in the mid eighteen hundreds.

Best time: Best time to visit Darjeeling is mid September to mid December and resumes from mid March to mid June.

Altitude: 2134 mtr.

Area: 1144 square km.

Climate: June to September are the monsoon months hence not

recommended.

Temperature:

In summers 8.5-degree c to 15 degree c

In winters 1.5-degree c to 6 degree c

Languages spoken :

English, Hindi, Gorkha and Bengali.

Places to visit: Tiger Hill, Ghoom Monastery, Observatory Hill, Zoological Park, Natural History Museum, Himalayan Mountaineering

Institute, Passenger Rope Way, Tibetan Refugee self help center and Tea Plantation.

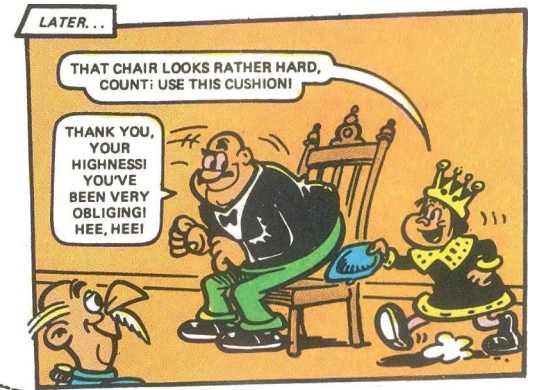
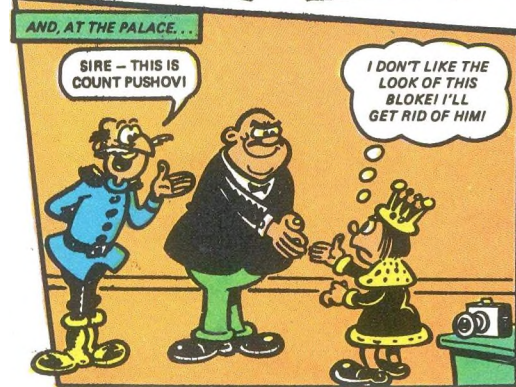
Places to stay: At the top end: Mayfair resort, New Elgin and Windamere Hotel.

Places to eat: Glenary's an excellent fast food Restaurant is recommended.

Getting there: The nearest Airport is Bagdogra 90 Kms. away from Darjeeling connected by Indian Airlines and Jet Airways from Delhi and Calcutta.

The nearest Railway Station is NJP connected by Rajdhani Express from Delhi (the fastest train).







Shamshir Luthra

SHAMSHIR LUTHRA'S

CHATTER MATTERS



STUDENTS OF CENTRE FOR PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN OUTDOORS CLASS

FEAR OF SPEAKING

Fear of speaking is not inborn. Most of us, when we were very young, spoke up whenever we had something to say. How often have you heard a mother "shush" a young child for speaking at an inappropriate time? However, for that youngster it was the right time because the child had something to say,

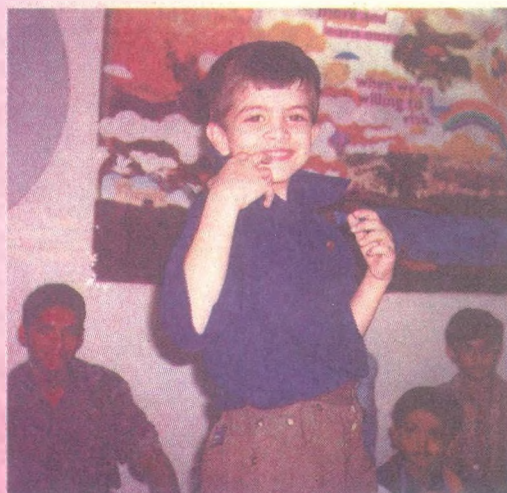
Something to communicate. The child had not yet learned to worry about how the words sounded or how he or she looked while speaking. What was important was the child had to say?

ART OF STAGE COMPERING

On stage what to do, if...

1. You get lost in your speech or give material out of context.
2. You burp, cough or sneeze.
3. Your hands and face perspire heavily.
4. Your mouth is dry.
5. You trip or fall.
6. Your voice quivers.
7. You gasp for air.
8. Your knees wobble.
9. You talk too fast.
10. You feel helpless.

***Abhi bhi time hai, sudhar jao,
Call Shamshir Luthra now!***



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THE VOICE CHAT

Everyone has a natural voice quality - good, bad or indifferent. That sound is determined by the physical structure and the size and shape of the voice mechanism. The aim of 'Chatter Matters' is not to change that voice but to train and develop the natural qualities. The biggest fault found in most people's voices is dullness; their voices are just ordinary. What can we do about a dull voice?



HERE ARE THE QUALITIES MOST SPEAKERS WANT IN THEIR VOICES

1. Vocal Expressiveness: The human voice is one of the most varied instruments in existence. It is capable of subtle nuances and shades of meaning like no other instrument.
2. Articulate Diction: This means clear, easy, distinct manner of speaking that is easily understood and easily heard.
3. Pleasing tone: The tone quality should be attractive and suitable for the age and sex.
4. Projection: A voice that is big and strong enough to suggest energy, says that the speaker is enthusiastic and alive.
5. Personality: This is the unique quality of voice that each individual has that makes one voice different from all others.
6. Sincerity: A relaxed natural voice presents an outer example of the inner you. (Remember, a voice so perfect or pretentious that it calls attention to itself defeats the purpose of communication).

PRACTICE READING ALOUD THIS HINGLISH STORY KEEPING THE ABOVE POINTS IN MIND

THE DEER WHO NEEDED PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT

Ek baar ek jungle mein bada hi handsome jawan hiran tha. Ek din woh ghumte ghumte apni open air jeep mein pool pe gaya, swimming karne nahin paani peene. Paani peene ke baad uski nazar pool mein pad rahi apni parchai par gayi. Hiran apne sir par rakkhe baarah singho ko dekhte huve bola, "nazar na lage mujhe, mai kitna pyaara lag raha hoon. Mere singh ne toh meri personality mein chaar ki jagah, barah chaand laga diye hai", khud ko badi der tak takne ke baad jab woh wapas jaane laga, tab uski nazar apne sharir par gayi. Woh utne mein ruk gaya aur rah rah ke apne gym instructor ki daant usse yaad aane lagi. Apni sukhi sukhi hui tango ko dekhkar uske model banne ke sapne par paani phir gaya. Aur woh sochte huve bola, "Mai abhi hi gym jaata hoon, aur thodi exercise karta hoon."

Hiran apni jeep ki aur jaa hi raha tha, ki tabhi peeche se sher ne uss par chalaang mari! Aur hona kya tha, open air gypsy hawa khaate huve udhar hi khadi rah gayi aur Mr Hiran apni taango ka istmal kar paya. Bhagte bhagte hiran ko ahsaas hua ki uski taang although thodi patli thi, lekin sher se zyaada lambi thi. Bhagwan ka shukriya ada karte huve hiran jungle mein chupne ki jagah dhoondne laga. Lekin jaise woh aage badha jungle ghana hota gaya, aur pedon ki height kam. Bas ji, jis musibat se peeche chudane ke liye uski taango ne usko help ki thi, usi musibat mein phansaane ke liye uske singho ne koi kasar na chodi! Ped ki tahniyon ke sir mein joowo wali kanghi. Bas ji, tab tak sher wahan pahoonch gaya aur usey kha gaya. Iss kahani se hume yeh seekh milta hai ki **abhi bhi time hai, sudhar iao!** Call Shamshir Luthra now!

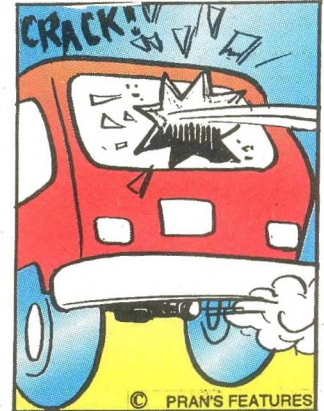
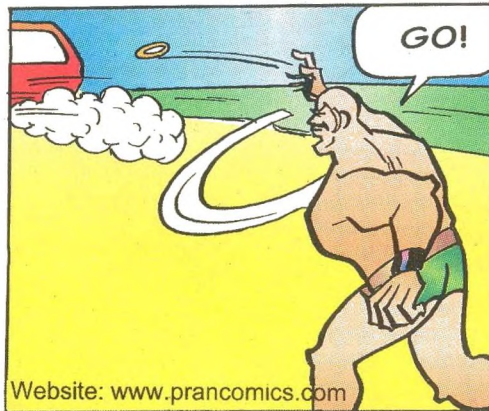
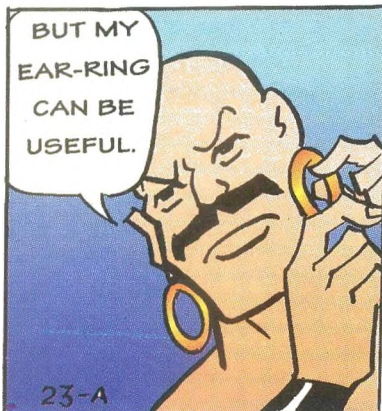
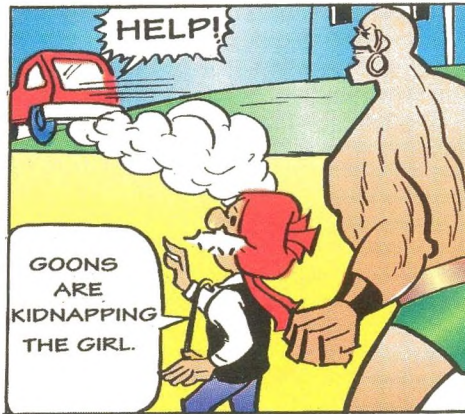
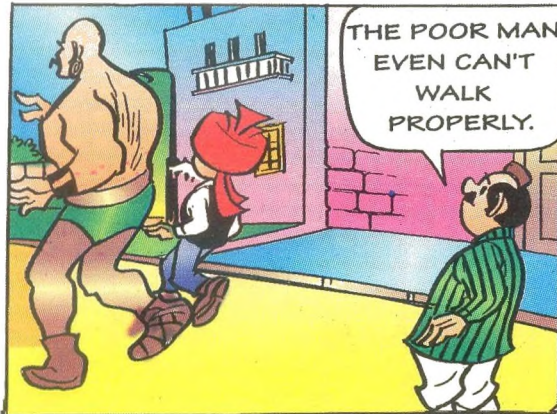
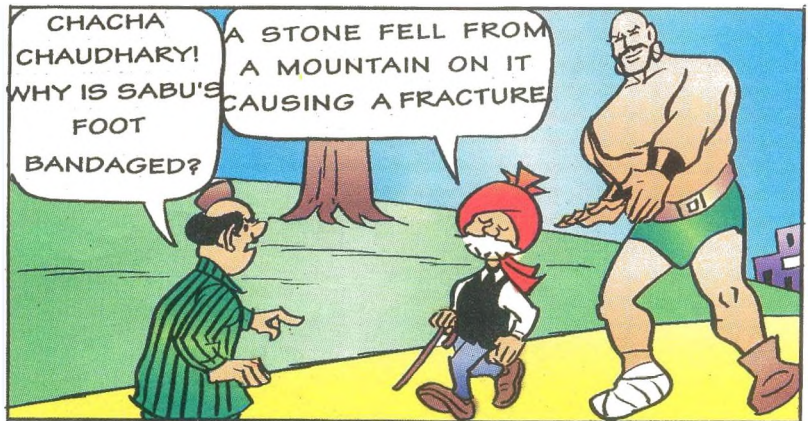
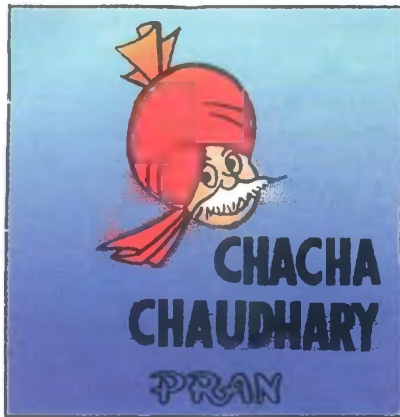
CHOTTA SHAMMI

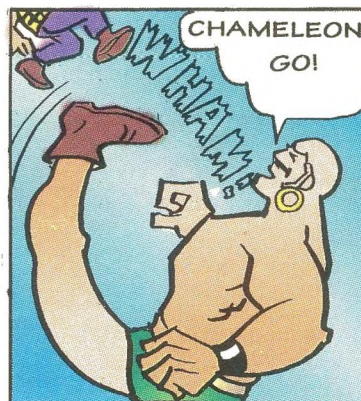
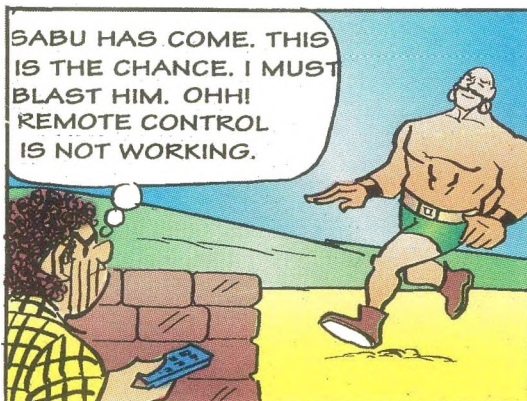
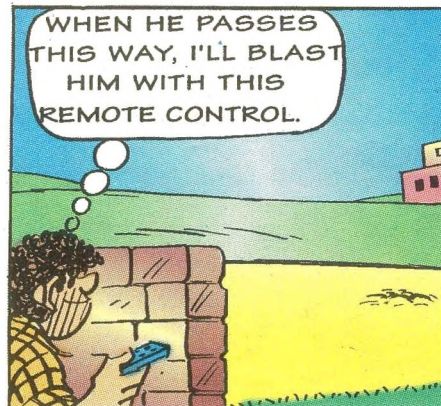
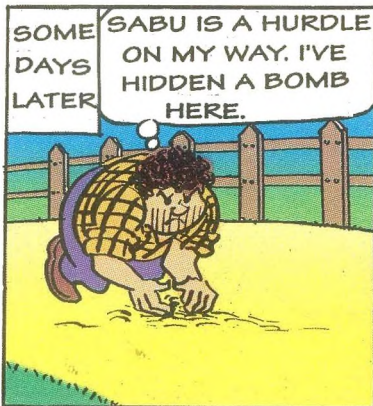
Chota Shamshir,
How do you explain the lousy
grades on this report card?



Well..
there's the
inadequate funding for
education, the overcrowded
classes, the low level of
nutrition in school lunches,
the excessive influence of
T.U., and the lack of
concentration on
basic skills...







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Rs. 450/-*



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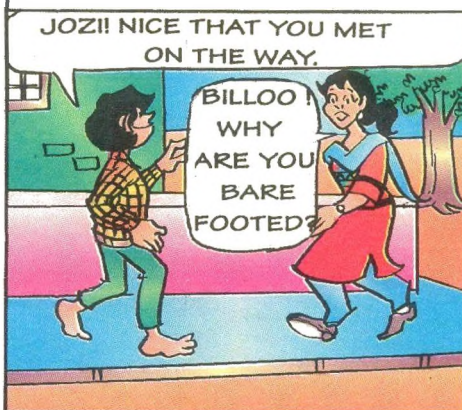
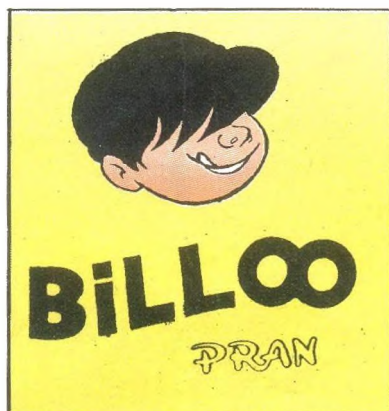
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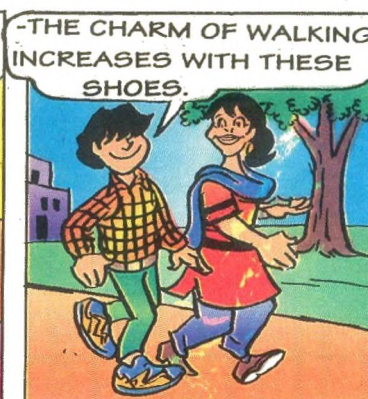
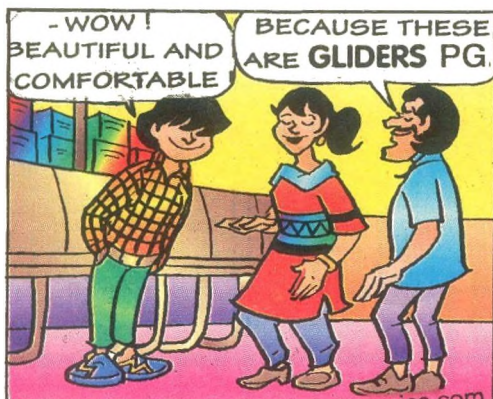
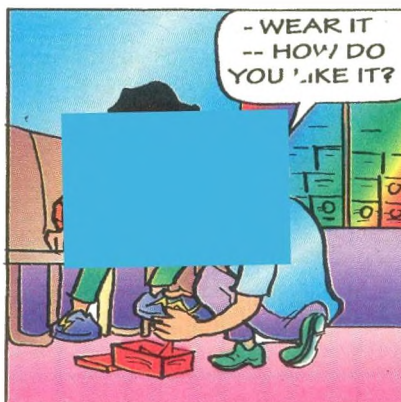
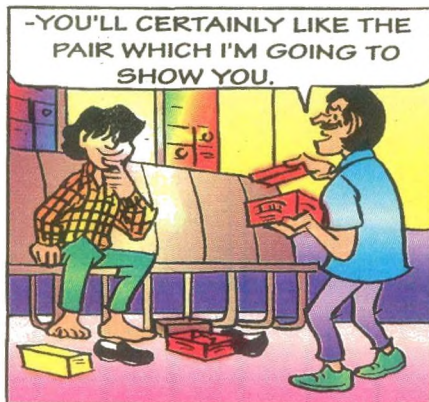
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GLIDERS
PG

SOMETHINGS ARE JUST RIGHT

*M.R.P. incl. of all taxes. Montage LGPG 27/CW 99





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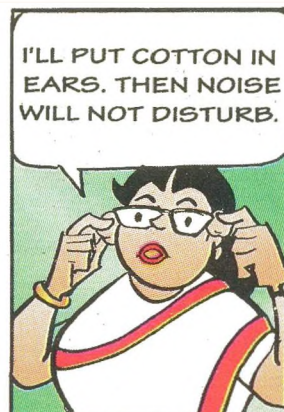
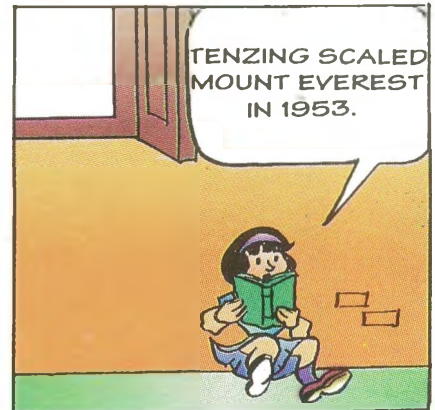
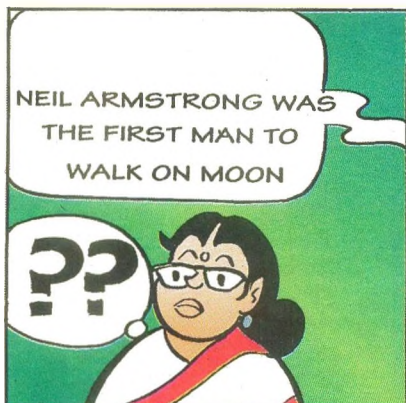
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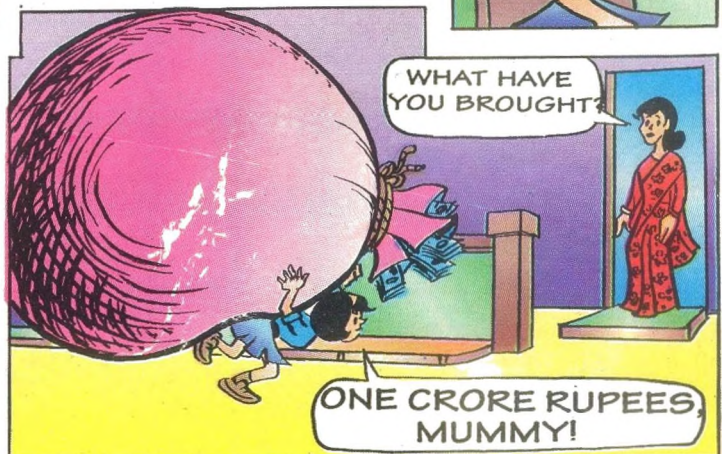
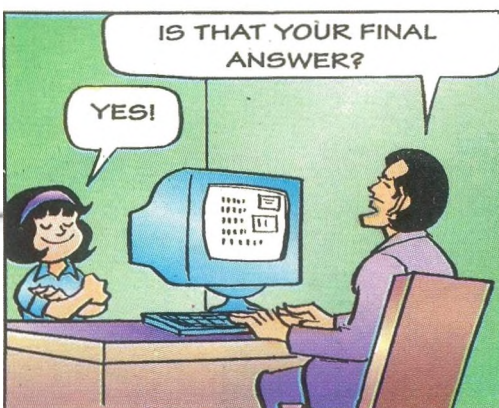
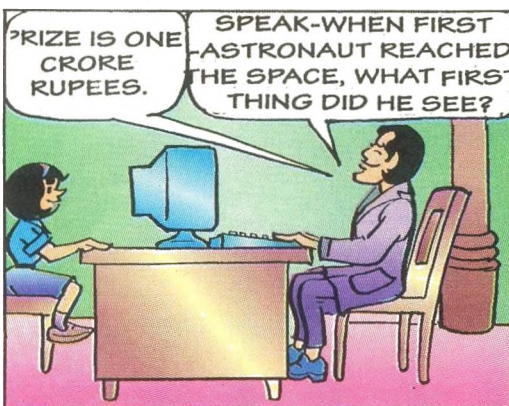
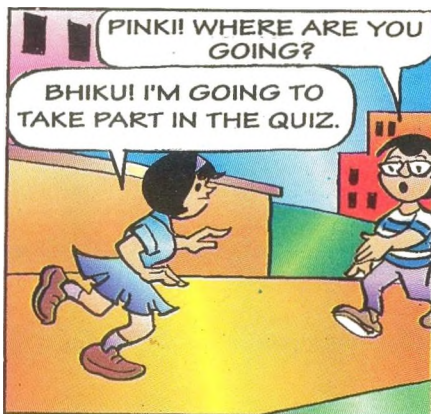
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LIBERTY
GLIDERS.

Some things are just right.

*M.R.P. incl. of all taxes Montage LGPG 25 CW 91





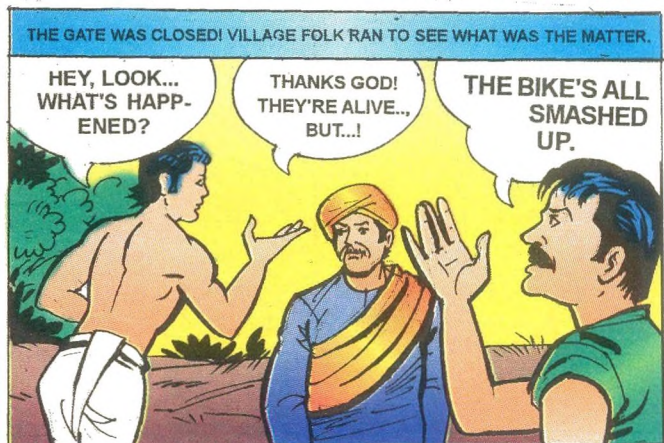
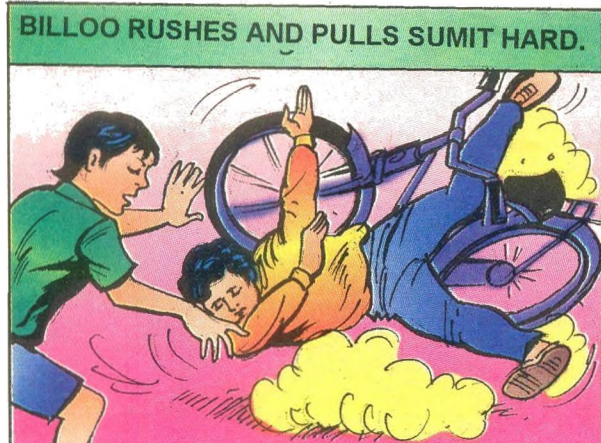
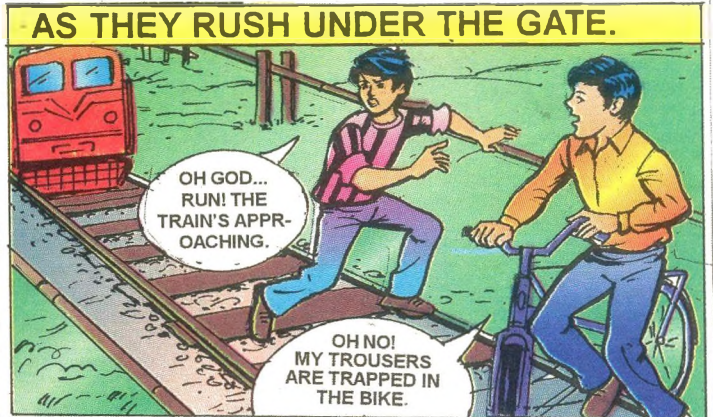
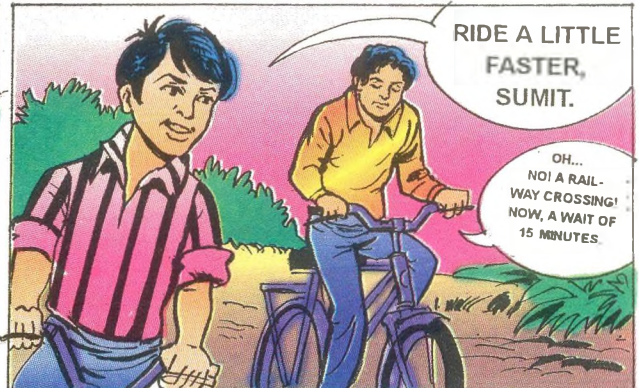
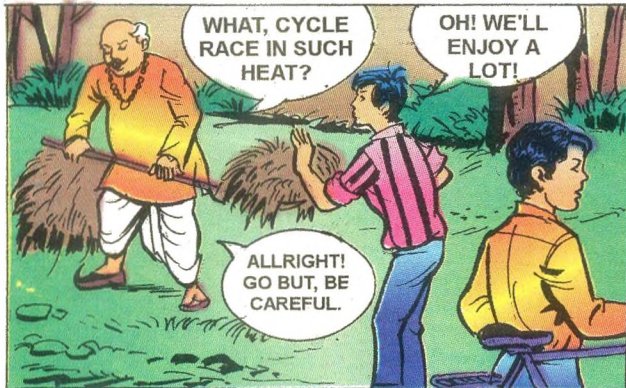
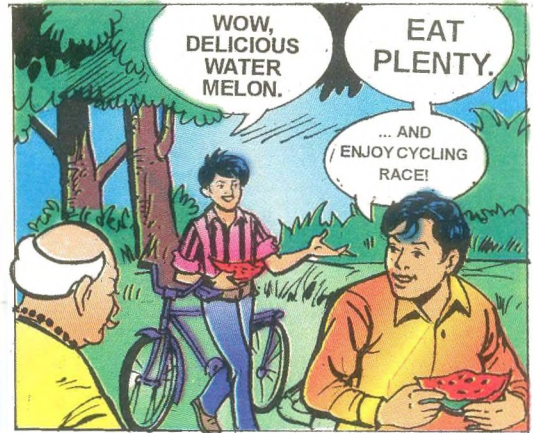


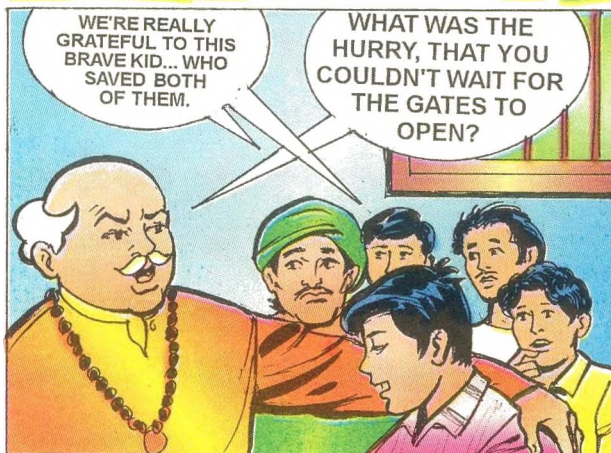
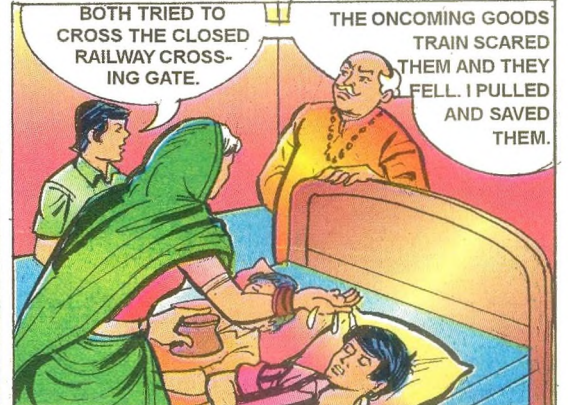
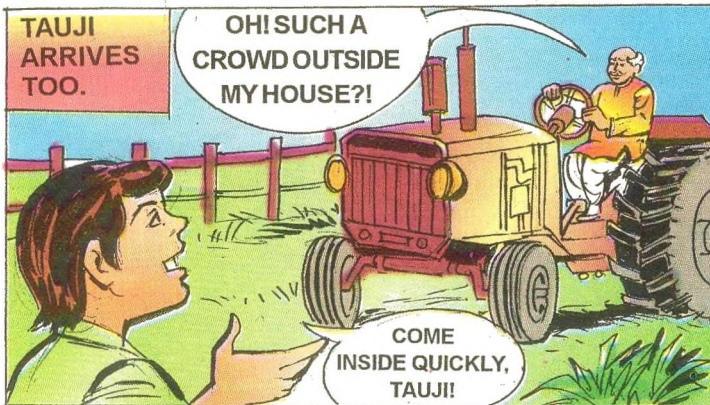
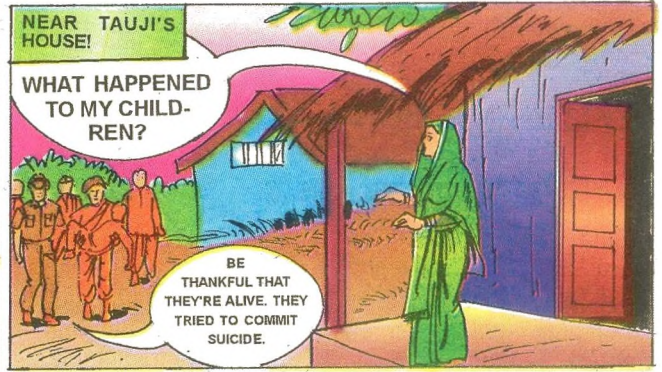
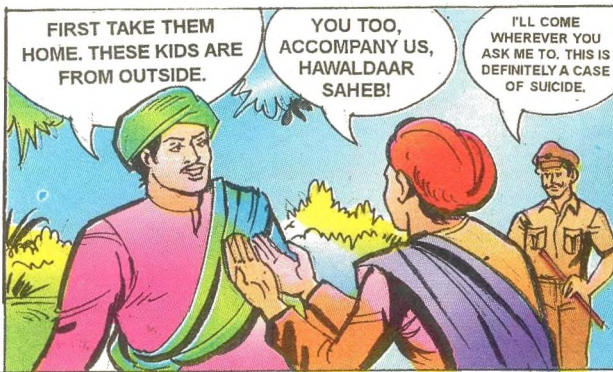
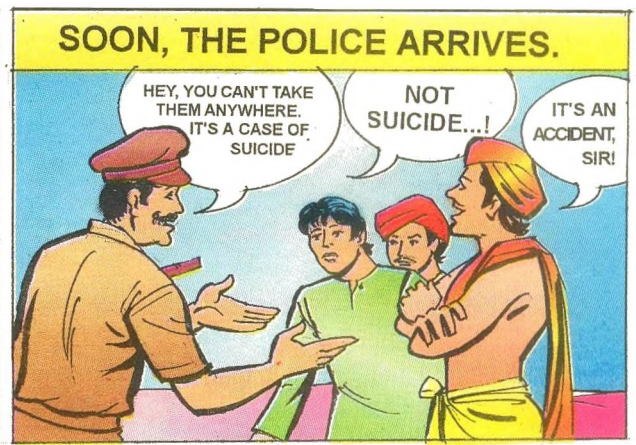
TAUJI

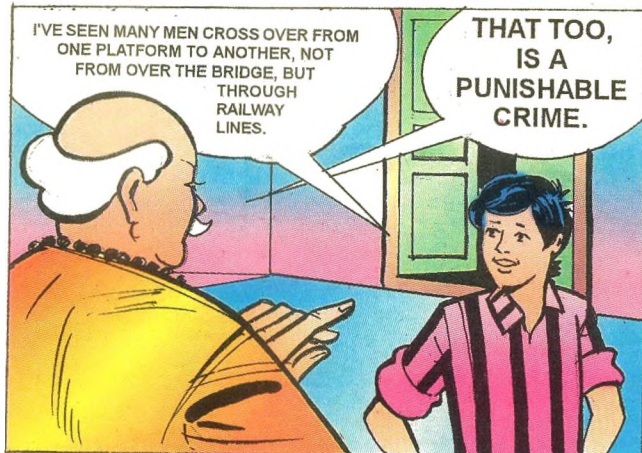
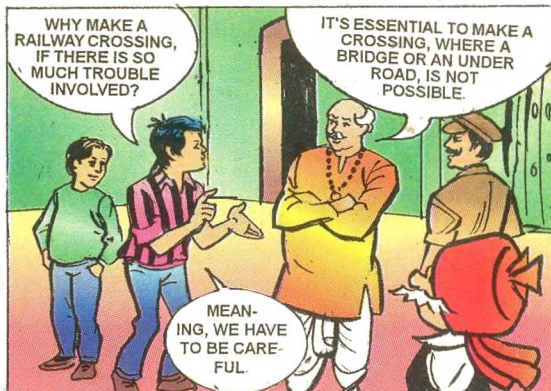
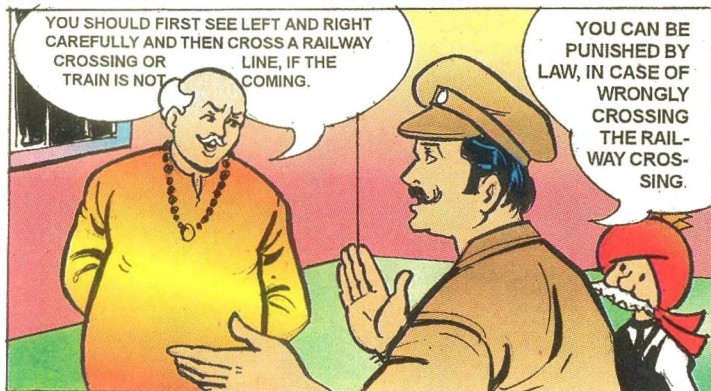
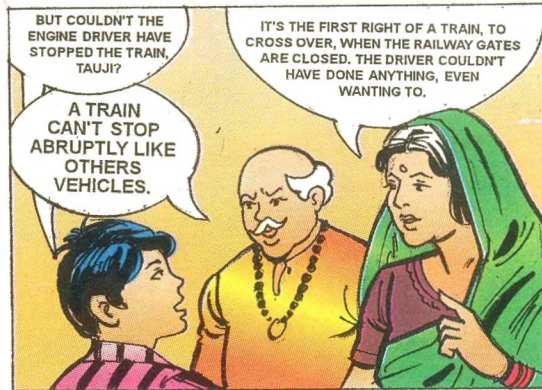
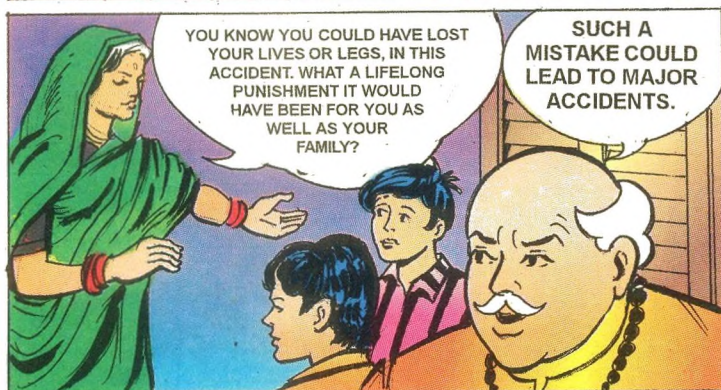
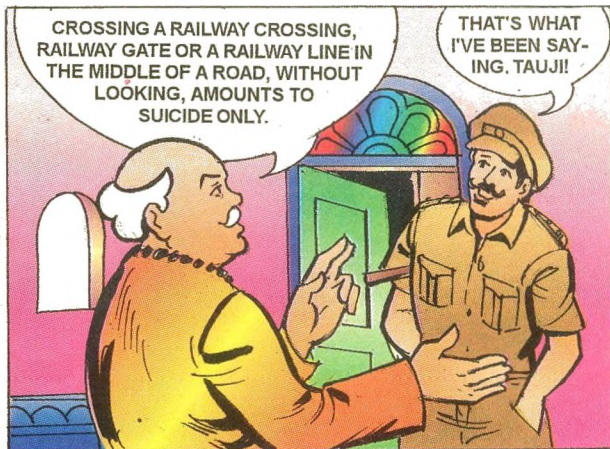
NO HASTE WHILE CROSSING THE RAILWAY CROSSING! INDIAN RAILWAYS

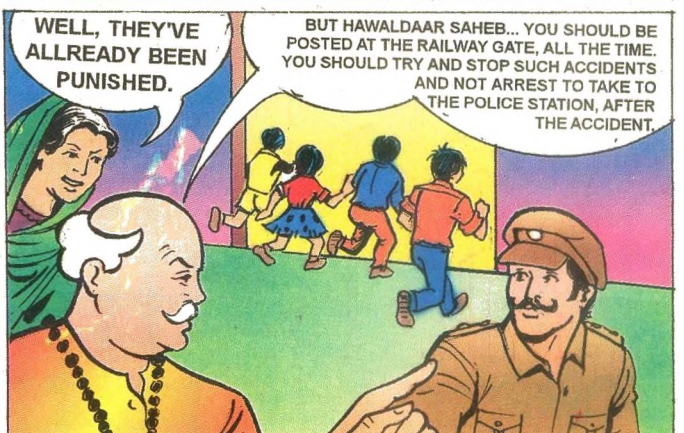
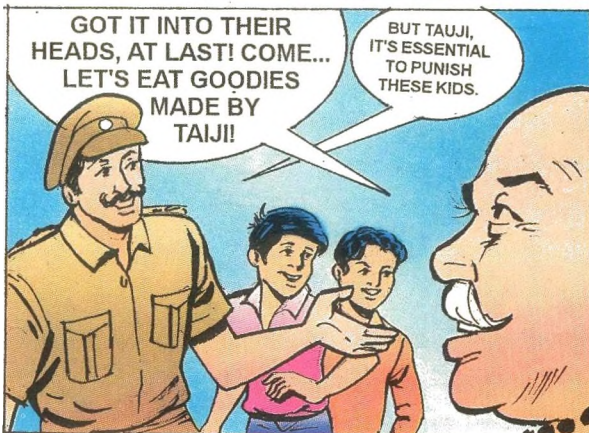
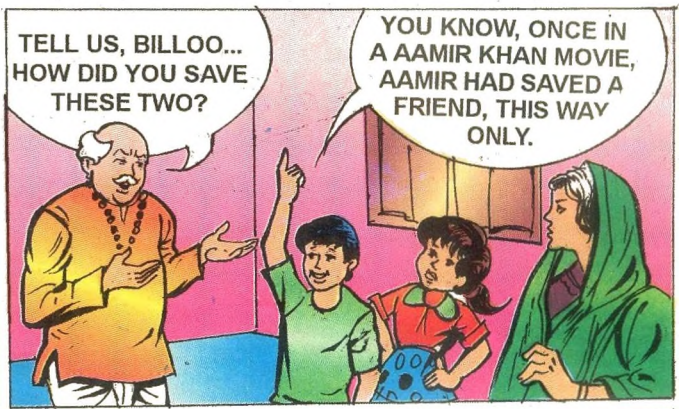
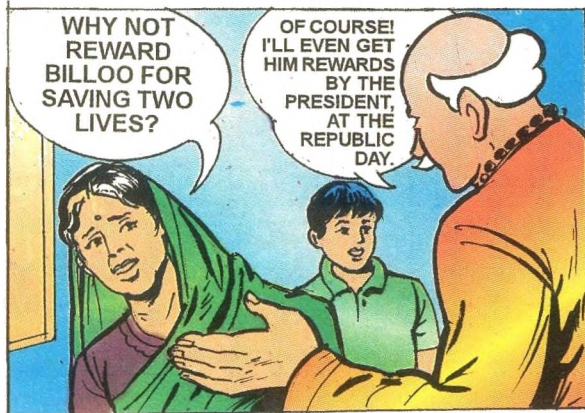
Help us to help you better Story : Karuna Bhatia

OUR VERY OWN TAUJI, IS A MATURE AND POPULAR OLD FELLOW! HE'S A STAUNCH INDIAN, WHO LOVES HIS CULTURE AND VALUES. MOSTLY, HE TOURS THE COUNTRY. SHOWING PEOPLE THE RIGHT PATH, GIVES HIM GREAT SOLACE!









THIEF KING

JAGGA IS THE KING OF KANANVAN!

HO! HO! EVERYTHING'S WELL IN MY STATE!

BUT PRIME MINISTER BENI WAS DISTURBED!

THIS IS THE ONLY STATE, WHERE THE KING IS ELECTED!

BUT FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, ONLY JAGGA IS WINNING THE ELECTIONS!

I CONTESTED LAST TIME, BUT GOT DEFEATED!

HIS SON ONE DAY THOUGHT...!

FATHER LOOKS DISTURBED, BUT WHY?

AFTER TALKING TO HIS FATHER...!

OH, THAT'S A SIMPLE THING!

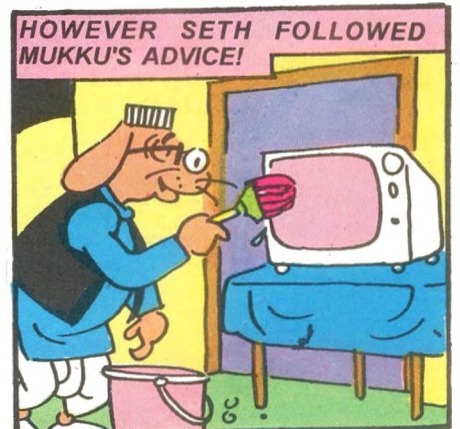
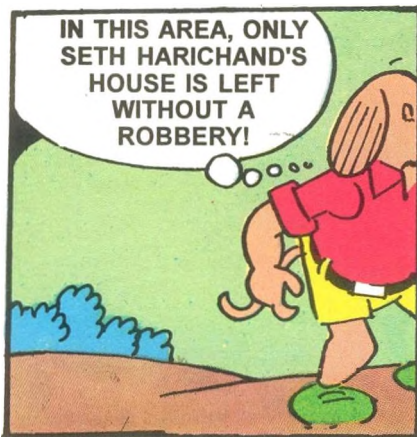
WHAT? IT'S A SIMPLE THING TO YOU?

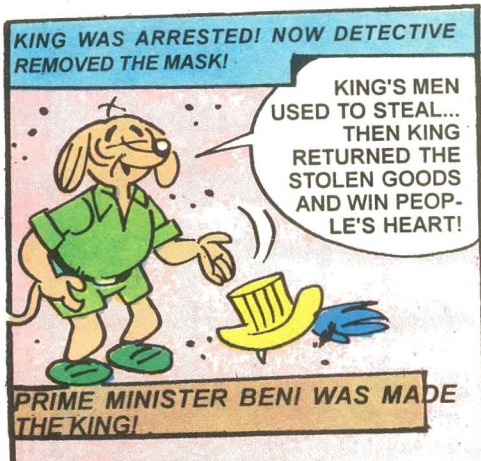
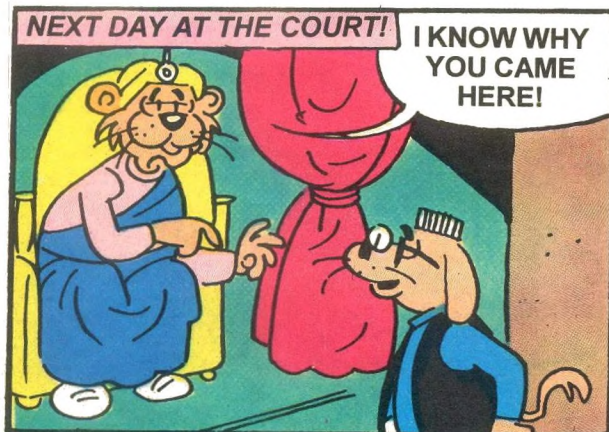
YES FATHER! YOU SEE, THERE ARE SO MANY CASES OF THEFT IN THE PAST 20 YEARS!

IDIOT! WHAT'S THAT TO DO WITH ELECTIONS?

MOREOVER, EVERY TIME THE STOLEN MONEY IS RECOVERED! EVERY BODY IS HAPPY!

BUT NEVER A THIEF IS CAUGHT!



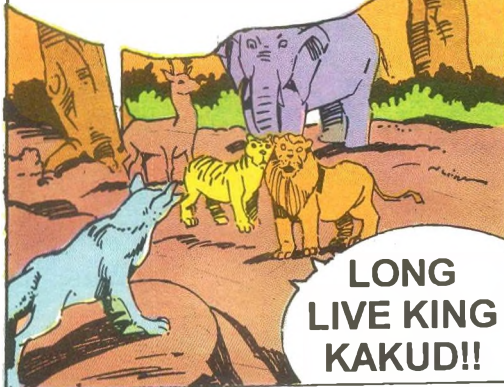


PANCHTANTRA

A JACKAL CALLED KAKUD REACHED A TOWN IN SEARCH OF FOOD AND IN ORDER TO SAVE ITSELF FROM DOGS, FELL INTO A TUB CONTAINING BLUE COLOURED WATER.

ON THE WAY, BLUE DYED JACKAL THOUGHT OF INFLUENCING OTHER ANIMALS OF THE FOREST WITH ITS COLOUR. THEREFORE, HE ADDRESSED THE ANIMALS.

LISTEN, ALL INHABITANTS OF THIS FOREST! BECAUSE THERE IS NO RULER HERE, LORD BRAHMA CREATED ME AND PROCLAIMED ME THE RULER OF THIS FOREST AND NAMED ME KING KAKUD. HE SAID... "GO TO THE EARTH AND RULE OVER ALL THE ANIMALS LIVING THERE." SO FROM TODAY, ALL OF YOU ARE MY SUBJECTS. I WILL RULE OVER YOU JUSTILY.



LONG LIVE KING KAKUD!!

I WAS A FOOL TO ENTER THE TOWN IN SEARCH OF FOOD. HAD I NOT FALLEN INTO THIS VESSEL FULL OF BLUE COLOUR, THESE FEROCIOUS DOGS WOULD HAVE TORN ME INTO PIECES.



I HAVE BEEN DYED BLUE. NOW THESE DOGS WOULD NOT RECOGNISE ME. NOW I WILL BE ABLE TO REACH MY HOUSE WITHOUT ANY FEAR.

LET EVERYONE LISTEN TO MY INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. LION WILL BE MY PRIME MINISTER, THE LEOPARD WILL BE THE GUARD OF MY PALACE AND THE WOLF SHALL BE THE GATEMAN.

WE SHALL FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS, YOUR MAJESTY.

PUSH ALL THE JACKALS OF THIS FOREST TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.

PRIME MINISTER LION! YOU WILL HAVE TO ARRANGE FOR MY FOOD ALSO.

ALL RIGHT, YOUR MAJESTY! WE WILL KILL ANIMAL AND BRING THEM TO YOU.



LIKE THIS, SOME TIME PASSED. ONE DAY, WHEN THE BLUE COLOURED JACKAL IN THE GUISE OF KING KAKUD SITTING IN THE ASSEMBLY, SUDDENLY HE HEARD THE CRIES OF SOME JACKALS FROM A DISTANCE. FORGETTING EVERYTHING, HE GOT UP AND STARTED HOWLING "HUA... HUA" LOUDLY.

OH! IT IS AN ORDINARY JACKAL. IT BEFOOLED US ALL BECAUSE OF ITS BLUE COLOUR. KILL HIM AT ONCE.



BIRBAL AND ASTROLOGICAL MIRACLE

AS USUAL, WHEN EMPEROR AKBAR REACHED THE COURT, A COURTIER SEIZED THIS OPPORTUNITY AND SAID.

HUZOOR! I'VE TO MAKE A REQUEST... IF YOU PERMIT!



LOOKING AT HIM IN AN ASKEW GLANCE, AKBAR ALLOWED HIM.

YES, AHMAD MIYANI WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY?

HUZOOR! NOW-A-DAYS BIRBAL IS OBSESSED WITH ASTROLOGY AND HE DOESN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE STATE-WORK.



THEN ANOTHER FELLOW, SULTAN ALSO TOOK THE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.

EXCUSE ME, HUZOOR! HE GOES AROUND SAYING THAT BY HIS ASTROLOGICAL MANTRAS, HE CAN DO ANYTHING.

REALLY?



WHILE THEY WERE TALKING, ONE MORE FELLOW STOOD UP TO SAY.

YOUR MAJESTY! HE BRAGS A LOT... WE'RE SICK OF HIS LOUD-MOUTHED TALKS!



AKBAR THOUGHT IN HIS MIND.

WHY SHOULDN'T I TEST BIRBAL'S PROWESS IN ASTROLOGY.



COINCIDENTLY, BIRBAL HAPPENED TO REACH THE COURT SAME TIME... HE BOWED HIS HEAD TO THE EMPEROR AND TOOK HIS SEAT! SENSING THE TENSE ATMOSPHERE HE REALISED.

SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY AMISS HERE! SOMEONE HAS DEFINITELY VITIATED THE EMPEROR'S MIND AGAINST ME!



BIRBAL DIDN'T KNOW THAT BEFORE HIS ARRIVAL, THE EMPEROR HAS MADE A SHARP MOVE. AKBAR THEN SAID TO BIRBAL.

BIRBAL! THERE'S A PROBLEM!



TELL ME, YOUR MAJESTY!

WITH A SARCASTIC SMILE ON HIS FACE, AKBAR SAID.

I LEARN THAT YOU'RE WELL VERSED IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANTRAS AND CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING WITH THEIR HELP?

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!



IN A TRICE, BIRBAL REALISED THAT SOMEONE HAS DEFINITELY POLLUTED THE EMPEROR'S MIND AGAINST HIM.



OH! THIS'S THE MATTER!

THEN AKBAR SAID IN A VERY DRAMATIC STYLE.

BIRBAL! I'VE LOST MY RING A FEW MINUTES AGO! CAN YOU TELL, WHO HAS THAT?



BIRBAL WAS SHARP ENOUGH TO REALISE THAT THE EMPEROR HAD DEFINITELY GIVEN HIS RING TO SOMEONE TO TEST HIS PROWESS. THEN BIRBAL SAID WITH A SMILE.

YOUR MAJESTY! THAT'S NOT DIFFICULT TO FIND!



AKBAR FURTHUR EGGED HIM ON.



THEN TELL ME, WHERE'S MY RING?

PRETENDING TO BE SERIOUSLY THINKING, BIRBAL CAST A FEW CRISS-CROSS LINES ON A PAPER AND SAID.

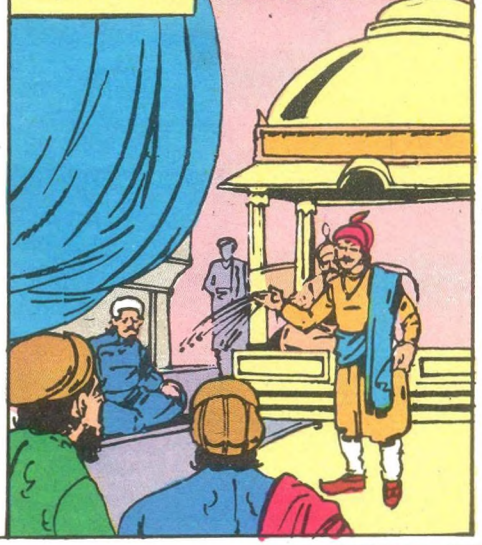


YOUR MAJESTY! PLEASE PUT YOUR HAND ON THIS PAPER... WHEREVER THAT RING BE, IT'D COME ON TO YOUR FINGER AUTOMATICALLY.

AKBAR PLACED HIS HAND ON THAT PAPER HAVING THE LINES!



THEN PUTTING HIS HAND IN HIS POCKET, BIRBAL DISHED OUT SOME RICE GRAIN AND BEGAN TO THROW THEM ON THE COURTIER'S.



BIRBAL'S THIS MOVE MADE THE COURTIER'S RATHER APPREHENSIVE... THEN A COURTIER PLACED HIS HAND OVER HIS POCKET.



HOLDING HIS POCKET FIRMLY, THAT COURTIER BEGAN TO THINK.



LEST THE RING GOES OUT OF MY POCKET!

WHEN BIRBAL SAW THAT COURTIER PUTTING HIS HAND FIRMLY OVER HIS POCKET, HE COULD KNOW THE REALITY.



THE RING IS IN THE POCKET OF THIS COURTIER!

YOUR MAJESTY! THE RING IS FOUND!

THE EMPEROR WAS STARTLED... HE COULDN'T KNOW HOW BIRBAL COULD SAY THIS WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE.



YOUR MAJESTY! THE RING IS BEING FIRMLY HELD BY THAT COURTIER.

AKBAR REALISED BIRBAL'S INTENTION AND STARTED TO LAUGH.



HO! HO! HO!! HO!! HO!!

THE COURTIER, WHO WAS HOLDING THAT RING, GOT UP RATHER SHAMEFACEDLY... THEN ALL STARTED TO LAUGH.



I'M BEING MADE A SCAPEGOAT TO THE DELIGHT OF EVERYONE!

THE COURTIER RETURNED THAT RING TO THE EMPEROR.



HO! HO! HO!! HO!! HO!!

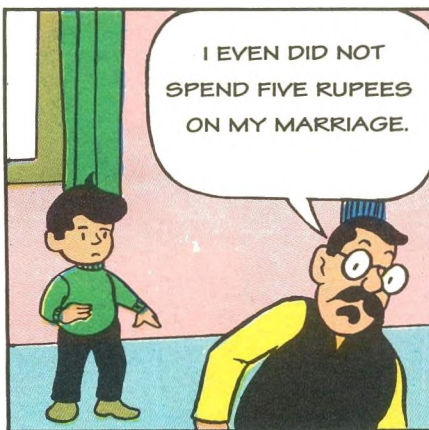
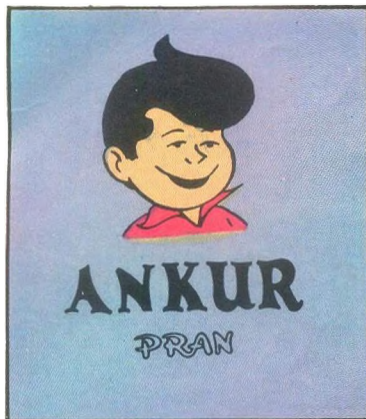
AKBAR HAPPILY PRESENTED THAT RING TO BIRBAL AND SAID.

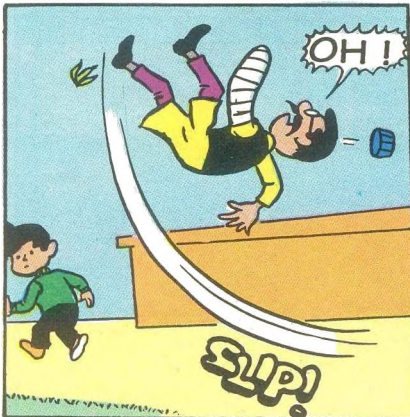
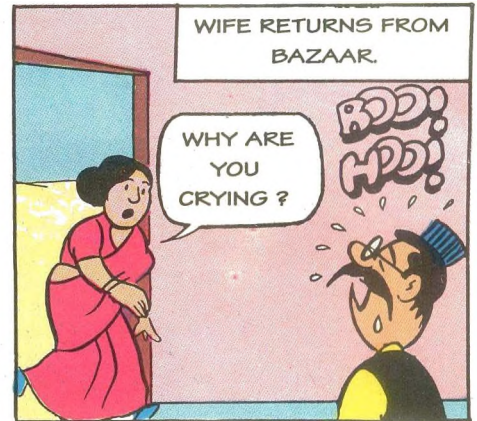


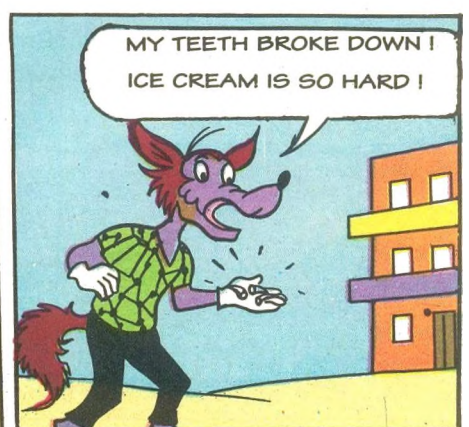
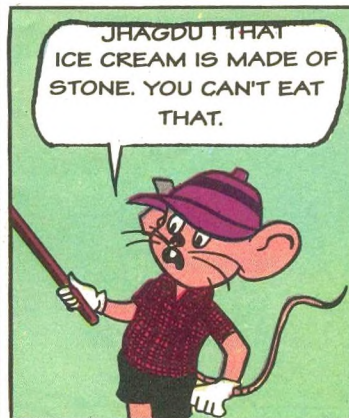
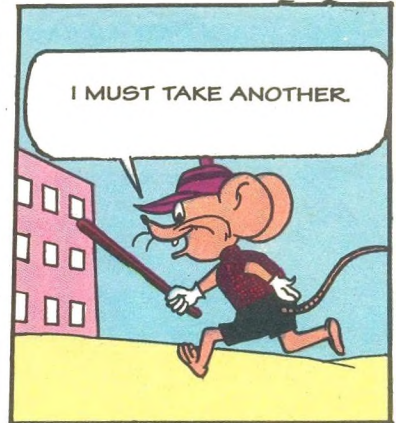
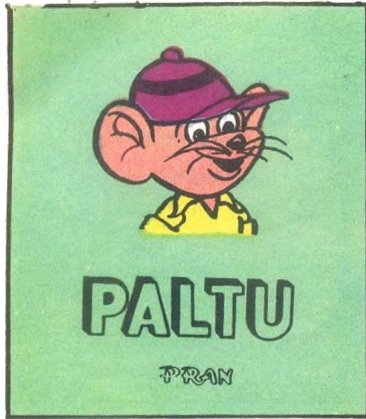
HAVE IT BIRBAL! SINCE YOU FOUND IT, IT IS YOURS!

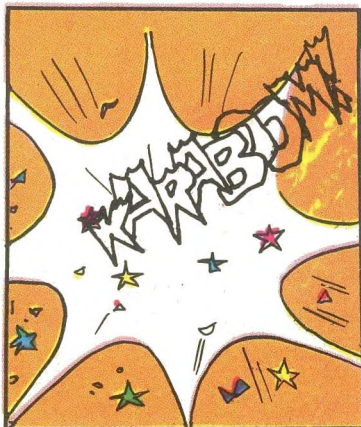
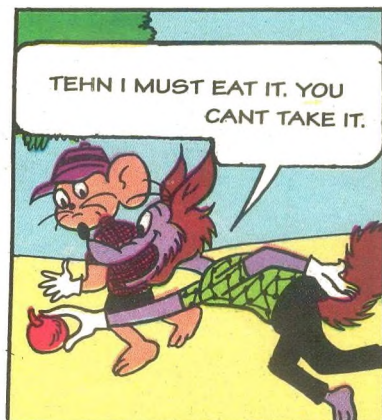
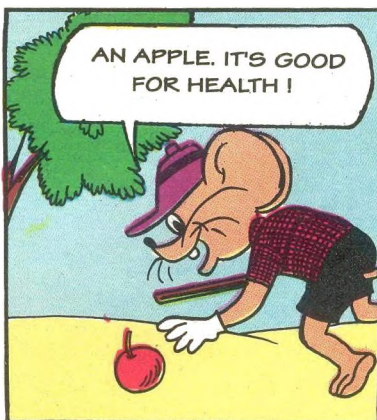
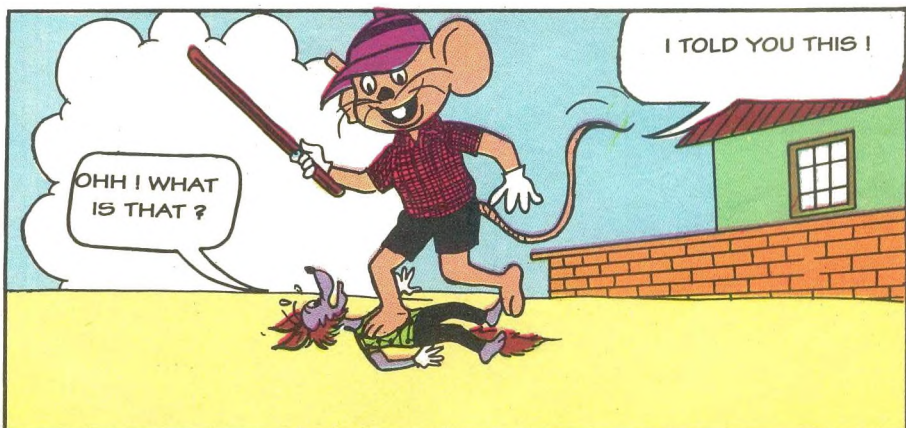
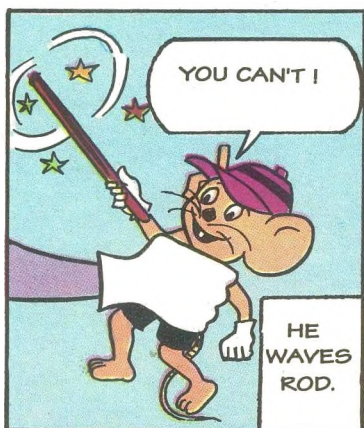
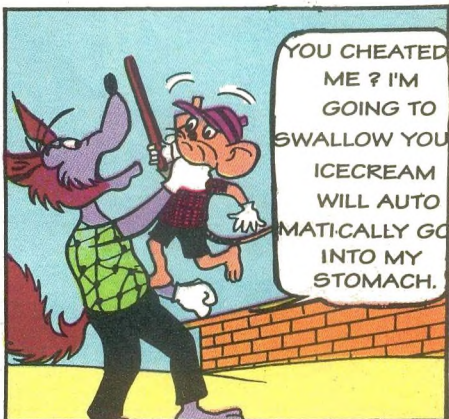
THANKS A LOT, HUZOOR!

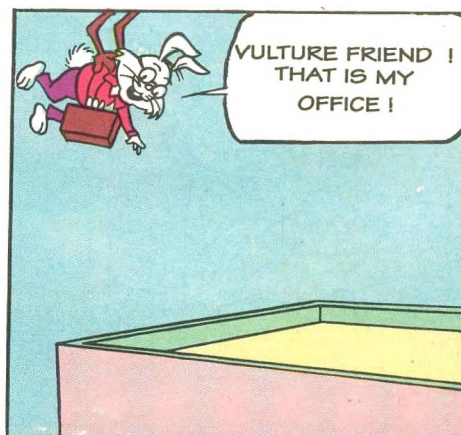
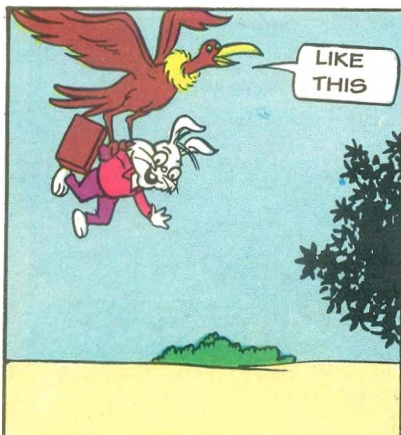
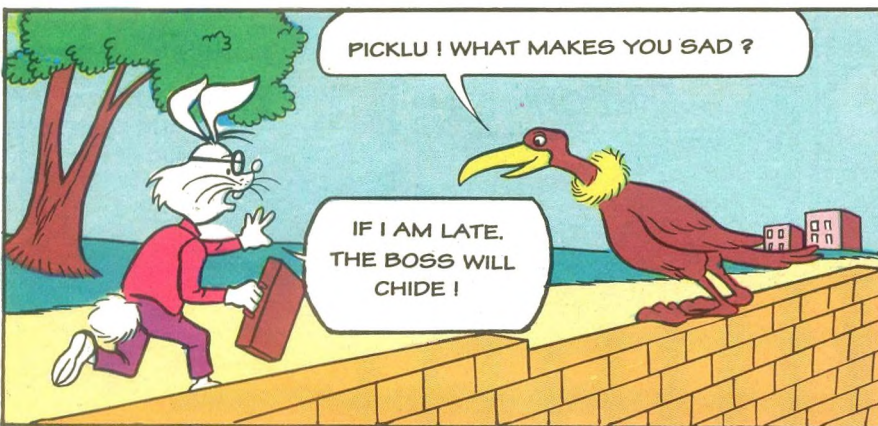
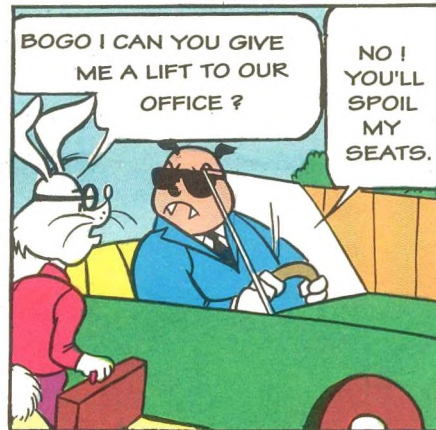
IN THE END: THOSE JEALOUS OF BIRBAL'S WISDOM AND POSITION HAD AGAIN TO EAT AN HUMBLE PIE...! AND THE EMPEROR ONCE AGAIN PRAISED BIRBAL GREATLY.

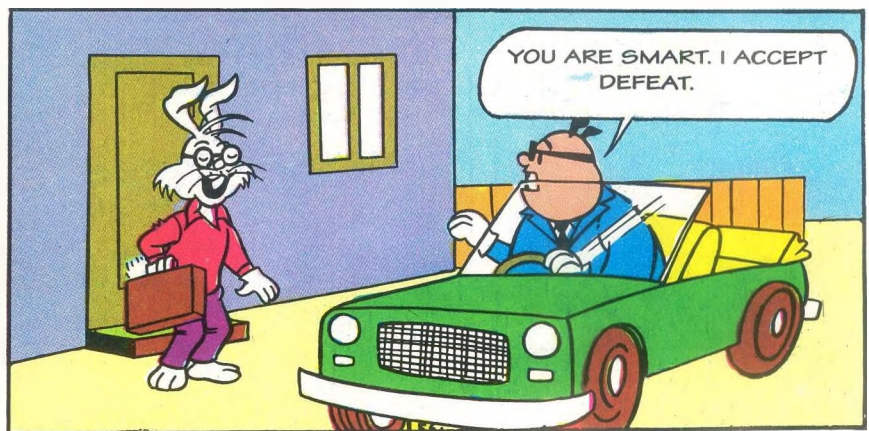
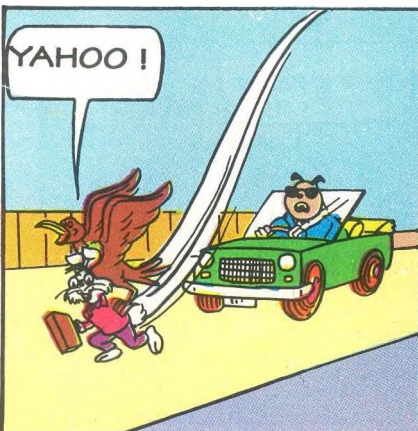
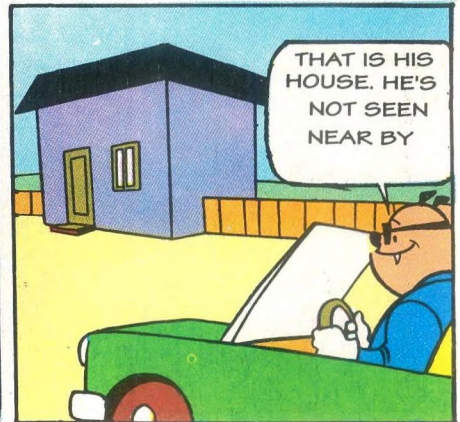
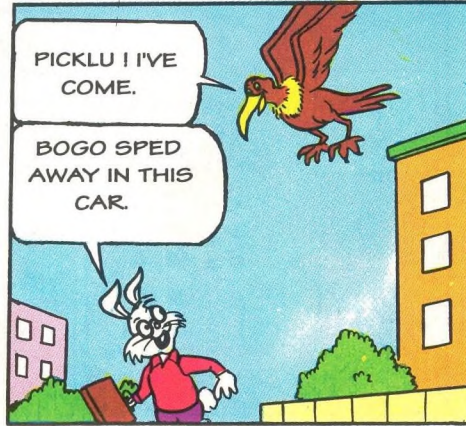


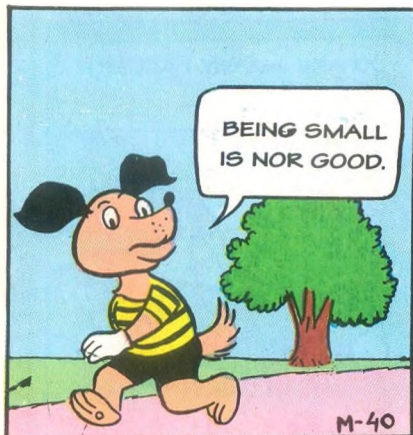
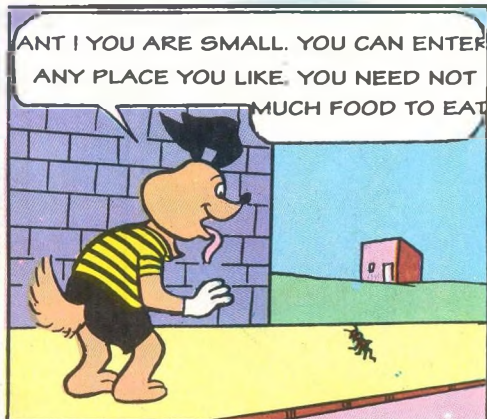
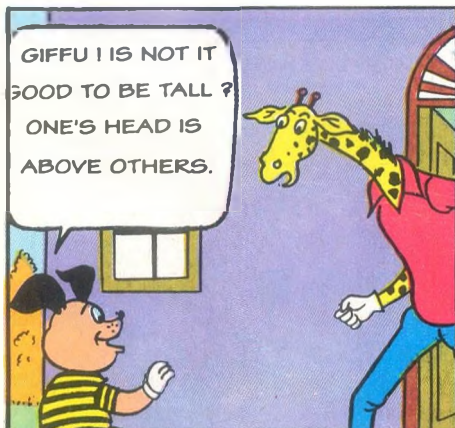


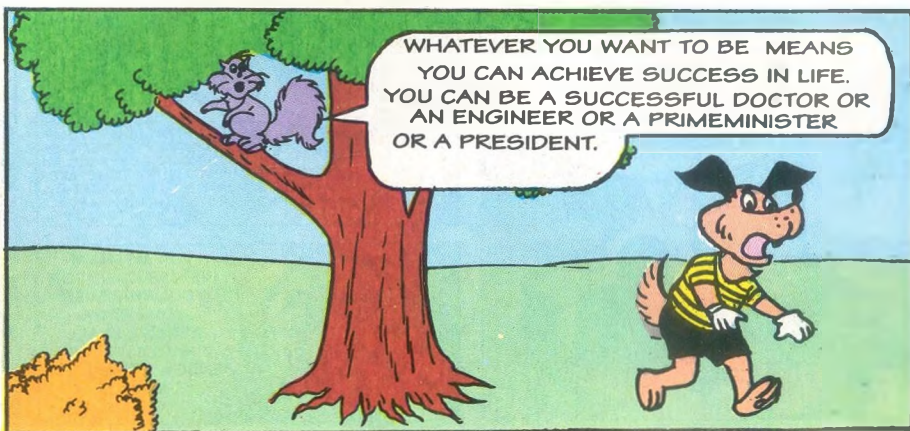
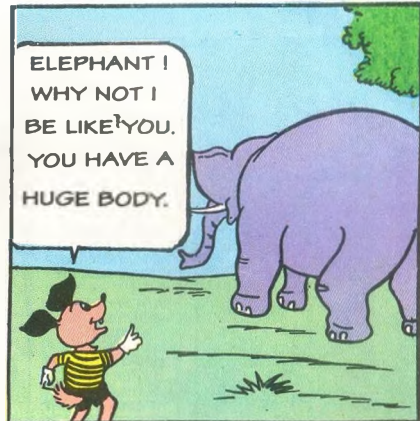
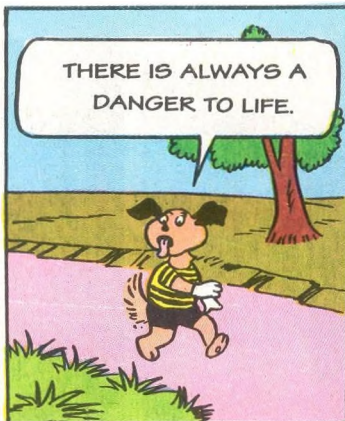
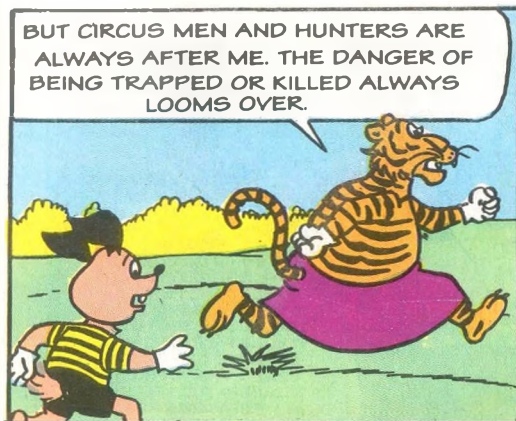












VIKRAM & BETAL

UNEXP-ECTED HAPPE-NINGS

THE PATIENT KING VIKRAM DIDN'T LOSE HIS HEART. HE WAS COMMITTED TO CATCH HOLD OF BETAL AND DELIVER HIM TO THAT YOGI, WHOM HE HAD GIVEN HIS WORD OF HONOUR TO DO SO. SUMMONING HIS COURAGE, HE AGAIN REACHED THAT MACABRE FOREST REPLETE WITH GHOSTS AND GOBLINS. PUTTING THAT BETAL, HANGING UPSIDE DOWN FROM THE TREE ON HIS SHOULDERS, HE AGAIN MOVED ON HIS CHOSEN PATH. BETAL AGAIN SPOKE ON THE WAY...!

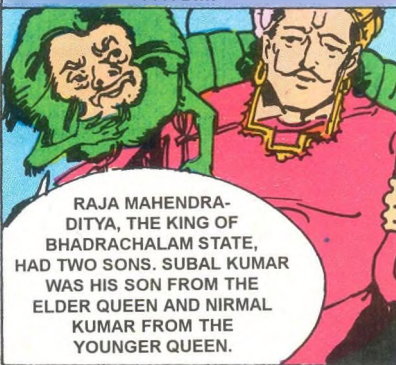


YOUR COURAGE'S PRAISEWORTHY, O' KING! DESPITE UNDER GOING GREAT HARDSHIP, STILL YOU'RE DETERMINED TO TAKE ME TO THAT WICKED YOGI. BUT I'VE SYMPATHETIC FEELINGS FOR YOU... HENCE TO LESSEN YOUR FATIGUE SOMEWHAT AND PROVIDE A DIVERSION TO YOU, I RECITE TO YOU A NEW STORY! THE CONDITION SHALL REMAIN THE SAME... THAT IS, DURING THE STORY YOU WON'T SPEAK AT ALL, OTHERWISE...!

ENOUGH... YOU NEEDN'T REPEAT IT... I KNOW YOU'D LEAVE ME IMMEDIATELY IF I SPEAK... NOW RECITE YOUR TALE... I PROMISE, I'D KEEP QUIET!



THEN BETAL RECITED THE FOLLOWING TALE TO THE KING...!



RAJA MAHENDRADITYA, THE KING OF BHADRACHALAM STATE, HAD TWO SONS. SUBAL KUMAR WAS HIS SON FROM THE ELDER QUEEN AND NIRMAL KUMAR FROM THE YOUNGER QUEEN.

KING MAHENDRADITYA WAS QUIET FOND OF SYCOPHANCY WITH THE RESULT, HIS STAFF PEOPLE USED TO SERVE THEIR SELFISH ENDS BY PLAYING SYCOPHANT TO HIM. EVEN THE ELDER PRINCE BECAME QUITE DEAR TO THE KING BY BEING A 'YES-MAN' TO HIS FATHER. BUT THE YOUNGER PRINCE GAVE HIS OPINION AFTER CONSIDERING THE MATTER FOUND CORRECT.



ONE DAY THE DISCUSSION WAS GOING ON BETWEEN THE ELDER PRINCE SUBAL KUMAR AND THE KING, WHEN NIRMAL KUMAR HAPPENED TO REACH THERE.



SUBAL...! YOU KNOW THAT I'M THE RULER OF THE STATE AND ALL THE SUBJECTS DEPEND ON MY GRACE FOR THEIR VERY SURVIVAL... DIDN'T YOU THINK, YOU ALSO SURVIVE OWING TO MY GRACE ONLY.

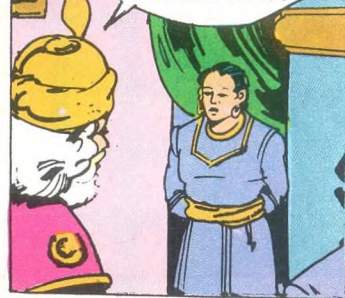
MOST CERTAINLY, MAHARAJ! TOGETHER WITH THE SUBJECTS, I ALSO OWE MY EXISTENCE, MY BREAD ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR MERCY. I SUBSIST MERELY ON YOUR GRACE.

AND WHAT'S YOUR OPINION, NIRMAL ON THIS ISSUE?



I BEG TO DIFFER, YOUR LORDSHIP! ACCORDING TO ME, ALL BEINGS GET THE MEANS OF THEIR SURVIVAL BY THE INKLING OF THEIR DESTINY...! ONE FARES ACCORDING TO ONE'S FORTUNE. IT'S THE DESTINY, WHICH MAKES ALL GET THEIR FOOD EVEN.

YOU MEAN YOU GET EVERYTHING BY DINT OF YOUR LUCK AND MY GRACE HAS NO ROLE TO PLAY IN IT?



YOU'RE MY FATHER... MY RULER...! HENCE I GET AFFECTION AND LOVE FROM YOU, BUT IT'S MY OWN LUCK THAT PROVIDES ME FOOD!



YES... MY RESPECTED FAHTER!



YOU MEAN I'M INSIGNIFICANT FOR YOU! WHATEVER YOU EAT OR RECEIVE IS ALL WHAT YOUR LUCK ENDOWS ON YOU! IS IT WHAT YOU MEAN!



HEY YOU DEVIL YOU PRACTICALLY EAT OUT OF MY HANDS AND STAY HERE ON ACCOUNT OF MY MAGNIMITY... STILL YOU GIVE SOLE CREDIT TO YOUR LUCK! NOW YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED FOR THIS EFFORTERY



IF YOU WANT TO PUNISH ME FOR MY SPEAKING TRUTH, YOU MAY DO SO MERRILY... BUT THE TRUTH'S WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU!

FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, THE PRINCE COI SURVIVE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER... B... WHEN THE HUNGER AND THURST BECAME INTOLERABLE, HE FAINTED.

FUMING IN RAGE THE KING ASKED FOR AN IRON CAGE AND HAD PRINCE NIRMAL IMPRISONED IN IT.

LET ME SEE HOW YOUR LUCK HELPS YOU NOW, AS YOU'RE IMPRISONED IN THE CAGE!

TAKE HIM AWAY AND LEAVE HIM AMIDST THE DENSE FOREST.



KING JAYAVARDHAN WAS RETURNING FROM HIS HUNTING SPREE. WHEN HE FOUND THE PRINCE IMPRISONED IN THE CAGE, HE WAS AMAZED.

AS PER THE KING'S ORDER, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF LEFT THE PRINCE AMIDST THICK FOREST.



WHAT...? HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN...? IMPRISONED IN AN IRON CAGE! HOW COME THIS BOY HAS BEEN LEFT HERE...! I MUST RELEASE HIM FROM THE CAGE.

BREAKING THE LOCK, KING JAYAVARDHAN OPENED THE CAGE'S GATE AND CHECKED THE PRINCE'S PULSE.

WHO'RE YOU SON... AND HOW YOU COULD HAVE THIS CONDITION!



CARRYING THE UNCONSCIOUS PRINCE ON HIS HORSE, THE KING REACHED THE BANK OF A RIVER AND FED HIM SOME WATER. WHEN HE WAS CONSCIOUS, THE KING ASKED IN A GENTLE TONE.

THE PRINCE OFFERED HIS PRUFUSE THANKS TO THE KING AND NARRATED ALL THAT TRANSPIRED. THEN...!

FORGET IT LIKE A BAD DREAM ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED! NOW COME WITH ME... I'D GIVE YOU FATHERLY AFFECTION... I'VE A DAUGHTER OF YOUR AGE!



HE'S ALIVE...! FIRST OF ALL, I MUST BRING HIM BACK TO SENSES AND THEN'D ENQUIRE OTHER DETAILS FROM HIM...!



INSIDE THE PALACE...!

LOOK HERE... MY DAUGHTER...! WHO HAS COME WITH ME...?

WHO'S HE FATHER...?



A PRINCE IN GREAT DISTRESS. HIS NAME'S NIRMAL KUMARI!

HE HAS AS GOOD A NAME AS HE LOOKS...! WILL HE STAY WITH US NOW, FATHER...?



YES, DAUGHTER... HENCEFORTH HE'D STAY HERE ONLY... LIKE MY OWN SON!

WOW! THEN TOGETHER WE'D HAVE THE GREAT FUN. WE'LL READ AND PLAY AND WANDER TOGETHER.

THIS WAY TIME CONTINUED TO ELAPSE. THEN ONE DAY, AN ADEPT YOGI HAPPENED TO REACH THE COURT OF KING JAYAVARDHAN.



FOR MANY DAYS, THE YOGI STAYED AS THE KING'S GUEST. BY RENDERING DEVOTED SERVICE, NIRMAL KUMAR WON THE HEART OF THE ASCETIC.



I'M VERY HAPPY, KUMAR BY YOUR DEVOUT SERVICE. NOW I WANT TO AWARD YOU FOR IT. YOU CAN HAVE WHATEVER YOU DESIRE, FROM ME!



BABAI YOUR BLESSINGS IS EVERYTHING FOR ME...! I'VE NO OTHER WISH...!

STILL, YOU MAY ASK ANYTHING...! I'D FULFILL YOUR EVERY DESIRE...!



BABAI IF YOU'RE SO HAPPY WITH ME, THEN KINDLY ENDOW ME WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF UNDERSTANDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS!



I SHALL DEFINITELY FULFILL YOUR THIS WISH!

THEN THE YOGI IMPARTED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS SPECIAL LANGUAGE TO THE PRINCE... BUT WHILE LEAVING HE ALERTED THE PRINCE.



NOW YOU KNOW THIS LANGUAGE WELL, O' PRINCE! BUT BE CAUTIOUS NOT TO LET OUT THIS SECRET BEFORE ANYONE OR ELSE YOUR LIFE'LL BE IN DANGER!



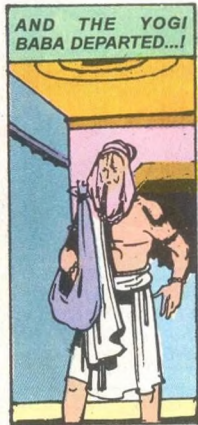
HOW, BABAI?



THEN I WON'T DISCLOSE THIS SECRET TO ANYONE AT ALL. I TOO, LOVE MY LIFE, BABAI!



MAY GOD BE GRACIOUS TO YOU!



AND THE YOGI BABA DEPARTED...!



THERE, SEEING CLOSE INTIMACY DEVELOPING BETWEEN THE PRINCESS AND THE PRINCE NIRMAL KUMAR, THE KING SOLEMNISED THEIR MARRIAGE.



THE MARRIAGE WAS GENEROUSLY CELEBRATED BY THE KING. THE DEWENZERS, TOO PARTICIPATED IN THE MARRIAGE JOYOUSLY.

AFTER THE MARRIAGE, THE KING CELEBRATED A FEAST ON A GRAND SCALE. MANY RESPECTABLE CITIZENS WERE INVITED TO THAT.



THE FEAST BEGAN... ALL BEGAN TO PARTAKE OF THEIR FOOD... BUT THE PRINCE'S ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED ELSE WHERE! HE WAS INTENTLY WATCHING TWO ANTS CARRYING FOOD PARTICLES BEFORE HIM.



NOW VERSED IN ALL BEINGS, 'ANIMALS' AND 'BIRDS' LANGUAGE, THE PRINCE COULD UNDERSTAND THE ANT'S CONVERSATION. A POWERFUL ANT WAS POUNCING UPON THE OTHER ANT.



HEY...! WHAT'RE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU SNATCHING MY FOOD?



I'M MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU ... GIVE ME THIS FOOD OR I'D KILL YOU!



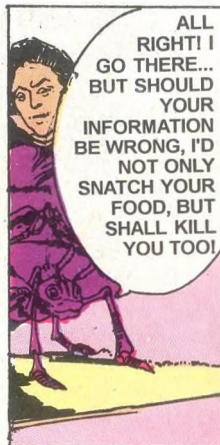
WHY ARE YOU TORTURING ME, WHEN HERE SO MUCH OF CEREAL IS AVAILABLE, THAT WE MAY GO ON CONSUMING IT FOR MANY YEARS.



WHERE'S THAT CEREAL FOOD!?



LOOK THERE...! IN THAT KITCHEN...! I'M ALSO BRINGING IT FROM THERE. INSTEAD OF SNATCHING MY FOOD, YOU MAY HAVE YOUR FROM THAT KITCHEN.



ALL RIGHT! I GO THERE... BUT SHOULD YOUR INFORMATION BE WRONG, I'D NOT ONLY SNATCH YOUR FOOD, BUT SHALL KILL YOU TOO!



HEARING THOSE ANT'S TALK, SUDDENLY THE PRINCE BURST OUT LAUGHING.

HAI HAI! HERE, TOO, THE TUSSELE BETWEEN POWERFUL AND THE WEAKER ONE! THE NATURE IS COMMON IN ALL THE BEINGS I SUPPOSE!



SEEING THE PRINCE LAUGHING FOR NO REASON, THE KING AND PRINCESS WERE QUITE TAKEN ABACK.

ARRE...! WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING? WHAT IS THE MATTER...?

TELL ME TOO, WHAT HAS CAUSED YOU TO LAUGH SO HILARIOUSLY?



THIS'S A SECRET...!



YES LORD...! LET ME ALSO KNOW, WHAT'S MAKING YOU LAUGH...?

SHARE IT WITH US...!



SORRY...! I CAN'T TELL EITHER OF YOU ABOUT IT!



WHY SO...?

NOW I MUST KNOW THIS SECRET! TELL ME.. WHY DID YOU LAUGH...?

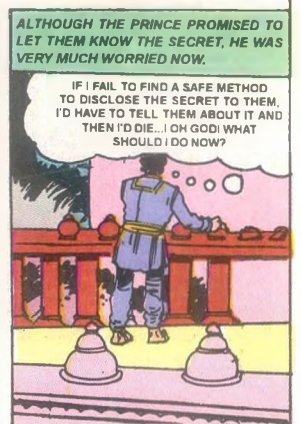


WHEN THE KING AND PRINCESS CONTINUED TO INSIST... THE PRINCE HAD TO SAY HELPLESSLY.

IF YOU'RE INSISTING, THEN I'D LET YOU KNOW THIS SECRET, BUT EXACTLY AFTER TEN DAYS AND NOT NOW!



ALL RIGHT...! LET IT BE AFTER TEN DAYS! BUT I WON'T REST TILL I'VE KNOWN THE SECRET!



ALTHOUGH THE PRINCE PROMISED TO LET THEM KNOW THE SECRET, HE WAS VERY MUCH WORRIED NOW.

IF I FAIL TO FIND A SAFE METHOD TO DISCLOSE THE SECRET TO THEM, I'D HAVE TO TELL THEM ABOUT IT AND THEN I'D DIE. OH GOD! WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?



WITH THESE THOUGHTS TROUBLING HIS MIND, HE SET OUT OF THE TOWN AND REACHED THE SPOT, WHERE A CATTLE FAIR HAD BEEN IN FULL SWING AND MANY PERSONS WERE SELLING AND BUYING THE CATTLES.



WHILE MOVING AROUND THE FAIR, HE REACHED NEAR THE STABLE OF A HORSE MERCHANT. SUDDENLY HE HEARD A EMACIATED BONE-DAY HORSE SAYING!

GOD...! I ENOUGH OF THIS LOAD CARRYING...! NOW PLEASE RELIEVE ME OF THIS BURDEN FOR EVER!



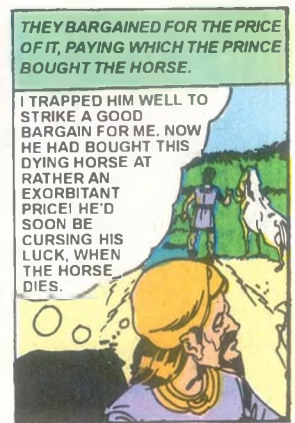
THE PRINCE REACHED CLOSER TO THE HORSE. HE CARESSSED AND PATTED IT AFFECTIONATELY AND WHISPERED INTO IT'S EARS IN IT'S OWN LANGUAGE...!

DON'T YOU WORRY NOW! I'D LIBERATE YOU FROM THIS HELLISH LIFE!



WHEN THE HORSE MERCHANT SAW HIM INTERESTED IN THAT HORSE, HE QUICKLY SAID.

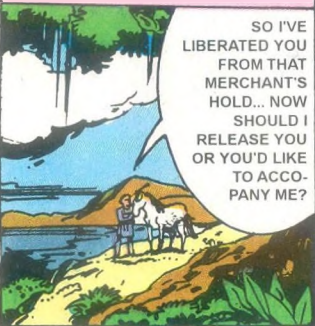
THIS HORSE IS OF A VERY FINE BREED, SIR. BUY IT WITH NO HITCH! IT'S ONLY WEAK, BECAUSE THE JOURNEY STRAIN...! IF YOU FEED HIM WELL, IT'D TURN INTO A ROBUST HORSE...! NOW DON'T HESITATE BUT IT QUICKLY!



THEY BARGAINED FOR THE PRICE OF IT, PAYING WHICH THE PRINCE BOUGHT THE HORSE.

I TRAPPED HIM WELL TO STRIKE A GOOD BARGAIN FOR ME. NOW HE HAD BOUGHT THIS DYING HORSE AT RATHER AN EXORBITANT PRICE! HE'D SOON BE CURSING HIS LUCK, WHEN THE HORSE DIES.

THE PRINCE TOOK THE HORSE TO A RIVER'S BANK AND MADE IT BATHE AND DRINK PLENTY OF WATER, THEN THE PRINCE OFFERED HIM FRESH AND SOFT GRASS. WHEN HORSE HAD IT'S BELLY FULL, THEY BEGAN TO TALK.



SO I'VE LIBERATED YOU FROM THAT MERCHANT'S HOLD... NOW SHOULD I RELEASE YOU OR YOU'D LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME?



I SHALL BE WITH YOU, MY LIBERATOR...! I WANT TO REPAY YOUR OBLIGATION UPON ME...!



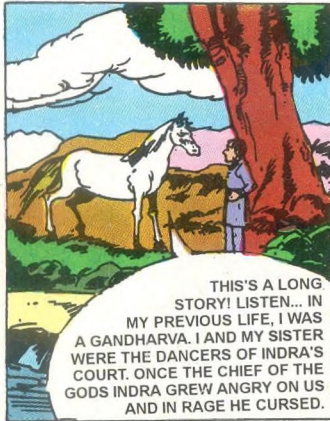
HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO REPAY IT?



POSSIBLY BY DOING YOUR EVERY WORK, O' PRINCE! DON'T TREAT ME TO BE AN ORDINARY HORSE!



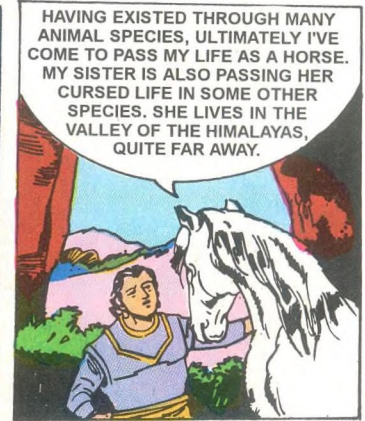
WHAT SEPCIAL POWERS YOU HAVE, DEAR?



THIS'S A LONG STORY! LISTEN... IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE, I WAS A GANDHARVA. I AND MY SISTER WERE THE DANCERS OF INDRA'S COURT. ONCE THE CHIEF OF THE GODS INDRA GREW ANGRY ON US AND IN RAGE HE CURSED.



CURSED...! THEN WHAT HAPPENED?



HAVING EXISTED THROUGH MANY ANIMAL SPECIES, ULTIMATELY I'VE COME TO PASS MY LIFE AS A HORSE. MY SISTER IS ALSO PASSING HER CURSED LIFE IN SOME OTHER SPECIES. SHE LIVES IN THE VALLEY OF THE HIMALAYAS, QUITE FAR AWAY.



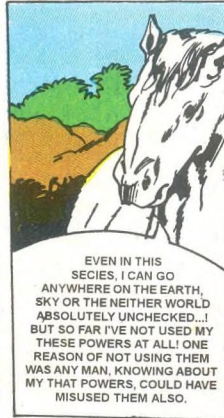
DID THE CHIEF OF THE GODS FIX SOME SPECIFIC DURATION OF HIS CURSE'S EFFECT?



WE'VE ALMOST COMPLETED IT. IN A FEW DAYS, WE SHALL GET BACK OUR ORIGINAL FORM AND GO BACK TO AMARAVATI...!



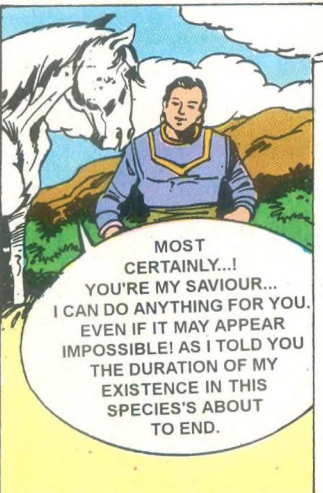
HAVE YOUR SPECIAL POWERS, ENDOWED TO YOU BY THE CHIEF OF GODS, STILL EFFECTIVE? OR THE TIME'S EFFECT HAS EXPIRED THEM TOO?



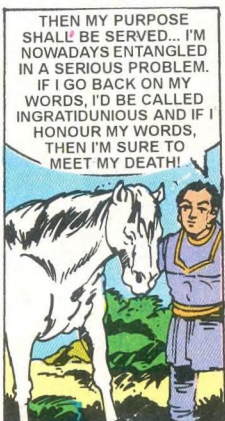
EVEN IN THIS SPECIES, I CAN GO ANYWHERE ON THE EARTH, SKY OR THE NEITHER WORLD ABSOLUTELY UNCHECKED...! BUT SO FAR I'VE NOT USED MY THESE POWERS AT ALL! ONE REASON OF NOT USING THEM WAS ANY MAN, KNOWING ABOUT MY THAT POWERS, COULD HAVE MISUSED THEM ALSO.



IF I ASK YOU TO DO SOME THING SPECIAL FOR ME... COULD YOU BE ABLE TO DO IT...?



MOST CERTAINLY...! YOU'RE MY SAVIOUR... I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. EVEN IF IT MAY APPEAR IMPOSSIBLE! AS I TOLD YOU THE DURATION OF MY EXISTENCE IN THIS SPECIES'S ABOUT TO END.



THEN MY PURPOSE SHALL BE SERVED... I'M NOWADAYS ENTANGLED IN A SERIOUS PROBLEM. IF I GO BACK ON MY WORDS, I'D BE CALLED INGRATIDUNIOUS AND IF I HONOUR MY WORDS, THEN I'M SURE TO MEET MY DEATH!



PLEASE TELL ME YOUR PROBLEM... I SHALL SURELY FIND IT'S SOLUTION.



THEN THE PRINCE DISCLOSED HIS COMMITMENT TO THE KING AND THE PRINCESS.

IT'S NOT SO DIFFICULT TO KILL THAT RED SNAKE, PRINCE! YOU FLY, SEATED ON ME, INTO THE SKY AND AS SOON AS THE RED SNAKE APPEARS, YOU SLAY IT BEFORE IT HITS THE GROUND!



IN FACT SUCH TYPE OF SNAKES BECOME DANGEROUS AND THEIR BITE BECOMES FATAL ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ON THE GROUND. KILLING THE RED SNAKE BEFORE IT TOUCHES THE GROUND WON'T PROVE DIFFICULT FOR YOU!

THEN I'D BE DOING THE SAME. NOW I CAN ASSUREDLY HONOUR MY WORDS.

THEN ONE DAY IN THE PALACE...!

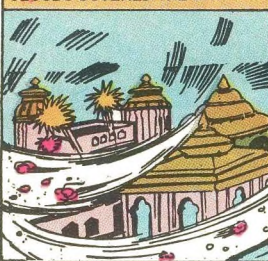


NOW I TELL YOU WHY I LAUGHED THAT DAY. SINCE I KNOW THE BIRDS' AND BEASTS' LANGUAGE... THE MAIN REASON OF MY LAUGHING, I HEARD BETWEEN TWO ANTS.

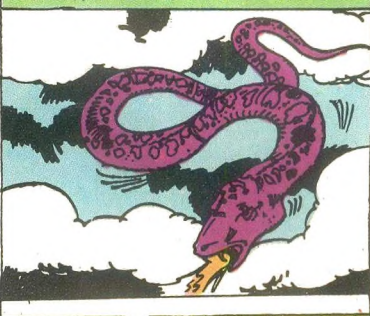
THEN THE PRINCE REPEATED THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO ANTS.



SUDDENLY THERE AROSE A MIGHTY STORM, WHICH THUNDERED OVER THE ENTIRE CITY. THE LIGHTNING BEGAN TO CRACK AND FALL & DENSE DARK CLOUDS COVERED THE SKY.



AND A GRISLY SNAKE MENACINGLY HISSING, APPEARED IN THE SKY.



THE HORSE QUICKLY FLEW SKYWARDS AND IN NO TIME, APPEARED BEFORE THE RED SNAKE.

THE RED SNAKE POUNCED UPON THE PRINCE, BUT WITH GREAT AGILITY, THE HORSE HELPED THE PRINCE PARRY THAT ONSLAUGHT.

THE CITIZEN STANDING BELOW WERE WATCHING THIS SKY FIGHTING IN AMAZEMENT. WITH THE PRINCE'S EVERY BLOW THE SNAKE'S BODY BEGAN TO FALL. HIS BLOOD BEGAN TO RAIN FROM THE SKY.

WHEN THE DEAD SNAKE FELL DOWN, THE HORSE TOOK THE PRINCE FLYING TO A PARTICULAR DIRECTION.

WITH A SWORD IN HIS HAND, THE PRINCE RUSHED OUT AND RODE ON HIS HORSE.



THE TIME HAS COME, FRIEND...! QUICKLY FLY IN THE SKY... WE'VE TO FINISH OFF THIS RED SNAKE BEFORE IT COMES DOWN TO THE GROUND.

I'M READY!



FOONNN!



NOW BEAR MY BLOW!



KHUTI!

KHUTI!

LOOK THERE, FATHER! WHERE THAT HORSE IS TAKING AWAY THE PRINCE?



PRINCE IS A BRAVE MAN, DAUGHTER! THE SNAKE'S DEAD! HAVE PATIENCE! AFTER SOME TIME THE PRINCE SHALL COME BACK SAFE AND SOUND!



THE HORSE TOOK THE PRINCE TO THE VALLEY OF THE HIMALAYAS... WHERE IT'S ACCURSED SISTER WAS LIVING.



WHERE HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME, FRIEND?

DON'T WORRY O' PRINCE! YOU'RE SAFE... BUT I'M RATHER TIRED. THE SNAKE'S POISONOUS EXHALATIONS HAVE REDUCED ME TO A BAD SHAPE. HENCE I WANT TO RELAX HERE FOR SOME TIME!



BUT FRIEND! IN THE PALACE, THE PRINCESS AND THE KING MUST BE WORRYING FOR ME...! I'VE TO RETURN SOON!



JUST WAIT FOR A FEW DAYS MORE, PRINCE! I'D SURELY TAKE YOU TO THE PALACE... THIS IS MY PROMISE!

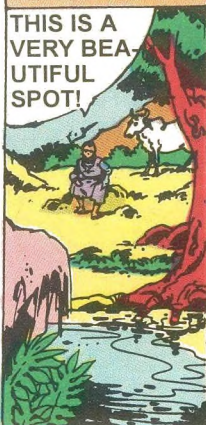


THEN THE HORSE MADE THE PRINCE MEET IT'S ACCURSED SISTER, WHERE SHE WAS EXISTING IN THE SPECIES OF A COW.



SHE'S MY SISTER IN THE FORM OF A COW, PRINCE. LET ME RELAX FOR SOME TIME. IN THE MEANWHILE, SHE'D LOOK AFTER YOUR COMFORT!

FOR TWO DAYS THE PRINCE REMAINED THERE.



THIS IS A VERY BEAUTIFUL SPOT!



'NO DOUBT BEAUTIFUL, BUT NO LESS DANGEROUS.



HOW...?

THERE'S A BEAUTIFUL POND BEHIND THIS HILL... WHERE THE YAKSHA GIRLS COME TO TAKE BATH. IF THEY HAPPEN TO SEE ANY MAN CLOSE BY, THEY GET ANNOYED AND BY THEIR MAGIC POWERS, THEY TURN THAT MAN INTO A STONE!





HENCE DON'T ATTEMPT TO GO THERE EVEN BY MISTAKE.

I WON'T, IF YOU SO ADVISE... I DON'T LIKE INVITING TROUBLE.



THE NEXT DAY, WHEN THE PRINCE GOT UP, HE WAS SURPRISED TO FIND AN ANGEL AND A FAIRY LIKE PERSONS BEFORE HIM.

WHO ARE YOU TWO?



DON'T BE SURPRISED PRINCE... I'M THAT SAME HORSE AND SHE'S MY SISTER. TODAY THE DURATION OF THE CURSE ON US HAS ENDED AND HENCE WE'VE GOT BACK OUR ORIGINAL FORM!



OH! I'VE IMMENSELY PLEASED TO SEE YOU BOTH IN YOUR REAL FORMS. BUT, HOW'D I BE ABLE TO REACH MY CITY NOW...?



DON'T WORRY, O' PRINCE... BY OUR SUPERNATURAL POWERS, WE'D TAKE YOU TO YOUR CITY.



THE ANGEL PLACED THE PRINCE ON HIS SHOULDERS AND THE THREESOME FLEW AWAY.



AND IN NO TIME, THE THREESOME REACHED THE PRINCE'S CITY. THEN BIDDING ADIEU THE ANGEL AND HIS SISTER FLEW TO INDRAPURI.



THE KING AND THE PRINCESS WERE VERY HAPPY TO FIND THE PRINCE BACK.



ON THIS OCCASION ALL THE CITY DWELLERS WERE GREATLY JUBILANT AND THEY LIGHTED THEIR HOUSES WITH THE EARTHLAMPS.



NEXT DAY, THE KING APPOINTED THE PRINCE AS THE RULER OF THE STATE BY PLACING THE CROWN ON HIS HEAD AND HE HIMSELF SET OUT WITH HIS QUEEN ON THE JOURNEY TO THE SACRED PALACE.



PRINCE NIRMAL BEGAN TO DWELL HAPPILY IN THE PALACE.



ONE DAY, WHILE SITTING QUIETLY A THOUGHT STRUCK TO HIS MIND.

FORTUNATELY, NOW SINCE I'M THE KING OF THIS STATE, WHY SHOULDN'T I GO AND INFORM MY BROTHER AND MY FATHER ABOUT THESE HAPPY THINGS.



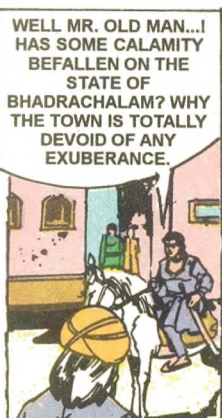
AND THIS WAY THEY'D BE BOUND TO BELIEVE THAT ONLY MY CONTENTION WAS TRUE.



THE NEXT DAY, RIDING HIS HORSE, PRINCE NIRMAL LEFT FOR HIS FATHER'S STATE.



WHEN HE REACHED HIS HOME TOWN, HE FOUND EVERYTHING TOTALLY CHANGED! THE PEOPLE LOOKED SAD AND FORLORN.



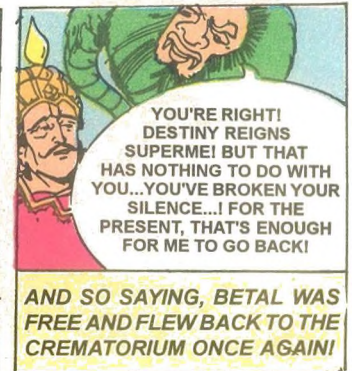
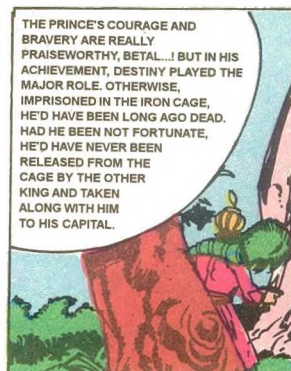
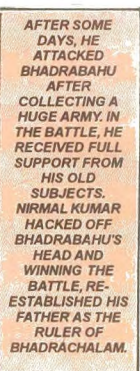
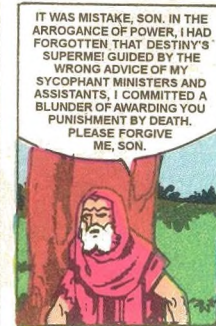
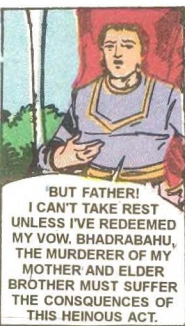
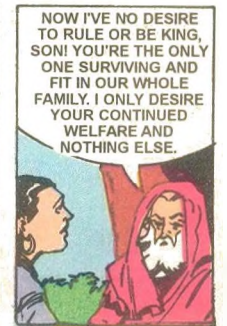
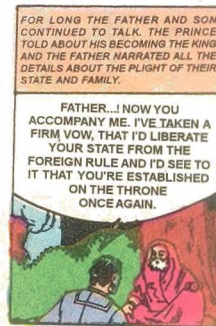
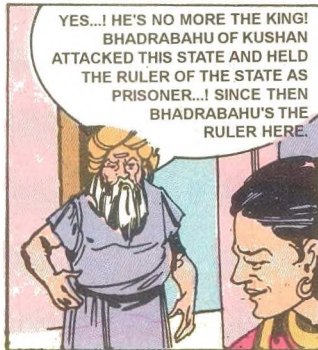
WELL MR. OLD MAN...! HAS SOME CALAMITY BEFALLEN ON THE STATE OF BHADRACHALAM? WHY THE TOWN IS TOTALLY DEVOID OF ANY EXUBERANCE.



YOU'RE RIGHT DEAR! A GREAT CALAMITY HAS REALLY BEFALLEN ON THE STATE RIGHT SINCE THE TIME THE EX-KING MAHENDRADITYA GAVE ORDERS TO HAVE HIS YOUNGER SON SLAIN...! WE'VE HAD NO PEACE SINCE THAT EVENT.



EX-KING...!? IS KING MAHENDRADITYA NO MORE THE RULER HERE?





HEART TO HEART



Loving Mummy and Papa,

There are those who compare their parents with the sun, moon and stars. But God had not created anything that could be compared to you.

Your's Renu and Gautam

Dear jaan Eela,

There is a long traffic jam of girls on the way to my heart; But I show the green signal of love only to you, because; I really love you,

McJohn



My dearest Sumit,

My feet dance because of you, my heart beats because of you, my eyes see because of you, my mind thinks because of you, and I love because of you.

Yours, Kunika



Dear Nimmi,

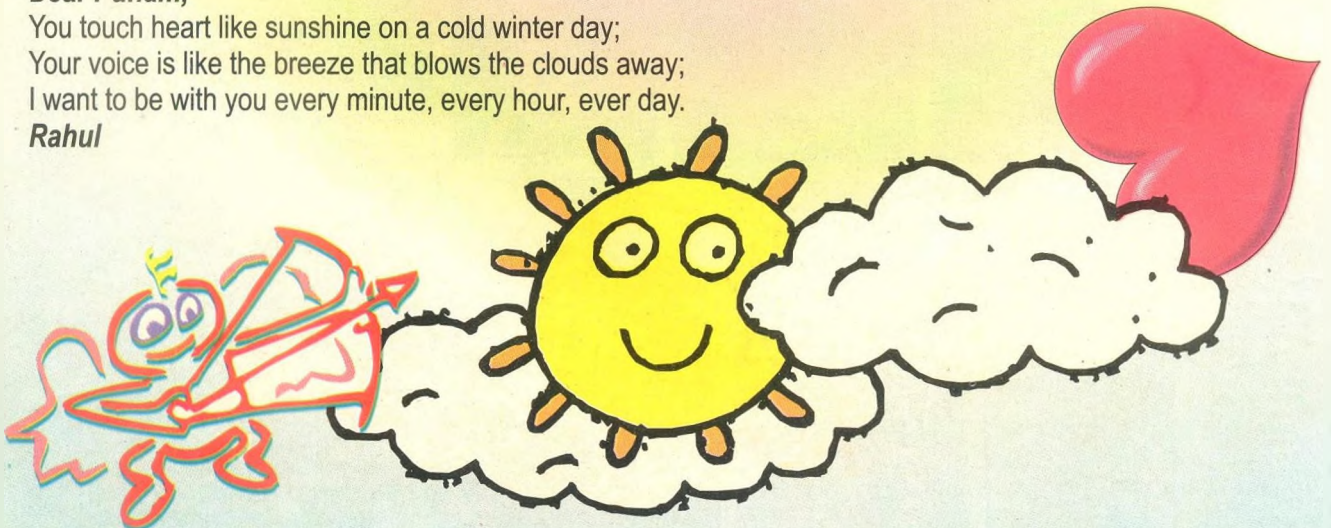
You are the loveliest sister of mine. I still remember the great time we had together. We laughed, we gossiped, we went for a walks together, I have bought a beautiful watch for you. Do come and collect it. I am waiting for you.

C Shekhar

Dear Punam,

You touch heart like sunshine on a cold winter day;
Your voice is like the breeze that blows the clouds away;
I want to be with you every minute, every hour, ever day.

Rahul



Pen

Friend



Geeta Soni,
Age: 17. H: Music, mime-acting,
penfriendship. Add: C/o Dr. Suresh Soni,
Getwell Polyclinic, Abu Road, Rajasthan.

Vibhanshu Seth,
Age: 16. H: Video games, painting, music. Add:
C/o D. K. Seth, Victory Paints, Main Market,
Pitampura, Delhi.



Homi S. Topiwala,
Age: 16. H: English novels, computer games
music. Add: C/o F.A. Topiwala, C-XII IInd Floor, May
Flower Society, Bandra, Mumbai-400 314.



Anirudh Sinha,
Age: 17. H: Boxing, cricket, movies. Add: C/o D.
K. Sinha, Shanti Sadan, Premlata Ghosh Marg,
Shyam Bazar, Calcutta.

Anuradha Pillai,
Age: 17. H: Badminton, swimming, chess.
Add: C/o S.B. Pillai, Shridharani Building,
Nanpeta, Chennai.



Saurabh Shukla,
Age: 18. H: Judo, cycling, skating. Add: C/o
Manesh Shukla, Vill. Kithod, Distt. Meerut, U.P.

Priya Sehgal,
Age: 14. H: Table tennis, penfriendship.
Add: C/o M. S. Sehgal, 268-9B, Mayur
Colony, Dera Bulleshah, Ropad, Punjab



PENFRIENDS COMIC WORLD

257, Dariba Kalan
Delhi-110006

I want to make Pen Friends.
I am sending a recent
photograph of myself.

Name

Age:.....Sex :

Address :

.....



FACE TO FACE



Dear Editor,
My heartiest congratulations for the Dot.Com Special! This is the only magazine which every member of my family reads. Even my grandmother likes Hitopadesh and Hanuman Mahima very much.

Dolly Sarkar, Midnapore

Dear Editor,
Thanks for bringing out the Dot.Com Special. It's the field where few dare to venture. All the information provided in the magazine was up-to-date. It was also presented in a crisp and interesting manner. Please bring out a Science Special or Technology Special in future.

A. Mutthaiya, Bangalore

Dear Editor,
It is very nice of you to include popular comic characters like Spiderman, Blondy and Hagar the Horrible in the comic section of Comic World. The mag is becoming trendy and crisp. The idea of bringing special issues is really wonderful.

Asha Verma, Jaipur



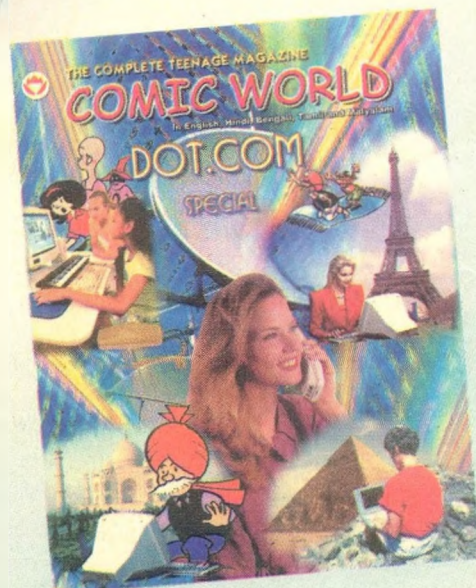
Dear Sir,
I just received Comic World's Career Special. It was full of useful and interesting information. All the comics were also superb.

Mrinal, Pune



Dear Sir,
In my wildest dreams I cannot think of missing even a single issue of Comic World. I have a complete collection of Comic World which is a treasure for me. Whenever I feel gloomy I pick any issue of CW and a smile lights up on my face. All the comic characters like Pinki, Bittu, Archie, Henry, Tom & Jerry, Tenalirama, Akbar-Birbal are most entertaining. Keep it up!

Gourav Malhotra, Jammu



Quick Recap Quiz=22



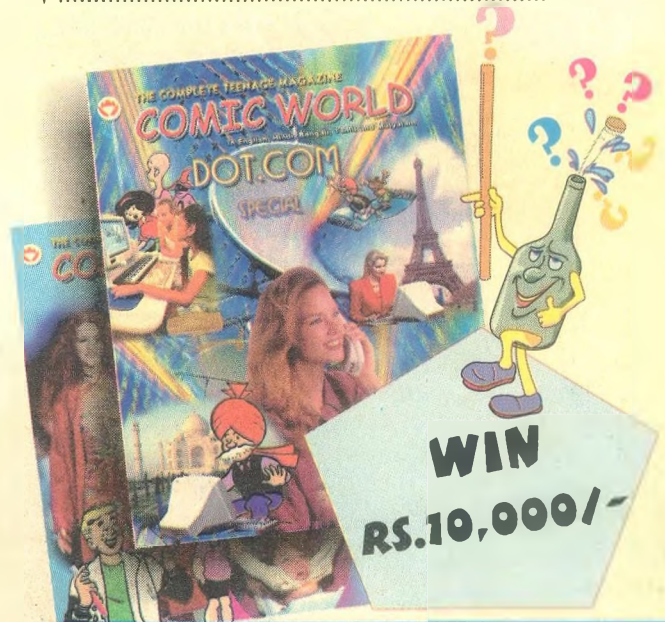
This Quick Recap Quiz-22 is based on Comic World's previous issues. Answer the following questions with the help of these issues. Write the answers in the vacant place given with each question. Write in a neat and clean handwriting. This is a golden chance to win

Rs,10,000/-

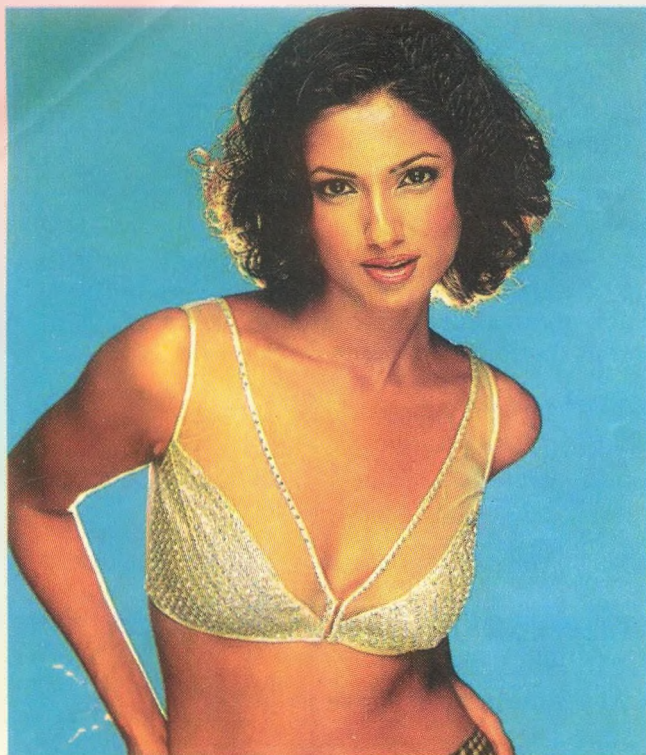
QUICK RECAP QUIZ-22
257, Dariba Kalan, Delhi-110006

- ★ Who was HORDAK?
★
- ★ What's the real name of Spiderman?
★
- ★ Which is the longest river?
★
- ★ In which city is Eiffel Tower situated?
★
- ★ Who invented telegraph?
★
- ★ What's the name of Chacha Chaudhary's dog?
★
- ★ Who is the King of Eternia?
★
- ★ What's the real name of Mohammad Ali?
★
- ★ In which city is the Empire State Building located?
★
- ★ Who invented the silicon chip?
★
- ★ Who was Salim Ali?
★
- ★ In which state is Chamba situated?
★
- ★ What's the name of Jughead's girl friend?
★
- ★ Who is called 'The human torch'?
★
- ★ Which Indian city is called the 'The City of Joy'?
★
- ★ Who is the author of 'For Whom the Bell Tolls'?
★
- ★ Beethoven was a musician or a mathematician?
★

- ★ Which company has launched CBZ 100 mobike?
★
- ★ Which vitamin is found most in citrus fruits?
★
- ★ What's the name of Pinki's squirrel?
★
- ★ Who gave the longest budget speech?
★



Name :
Age: Sex:
Address:
.....

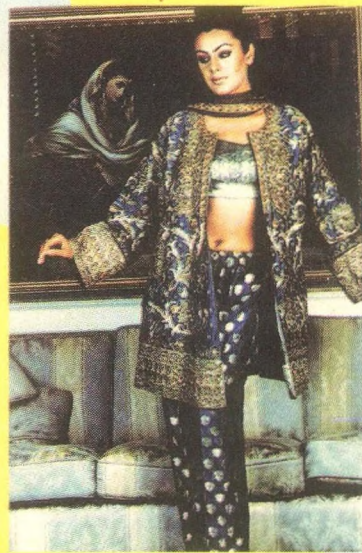


BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL: Top model Sheetal Malhar beats the heat in this cool, diaphanous creation by designer Anju Modi in New Delhi.

FASHION



India's pride Lara Dutta strikes a pose in a creation, designed by Ritu Kumar, that won her the first runner-up award for national costume.



IN VOGUE: Kanwal Toor gives a sneak preview in New Delhi of the Ritu Beri creation that world's top model Liz Hurley will wear for the cover of "Vogue".

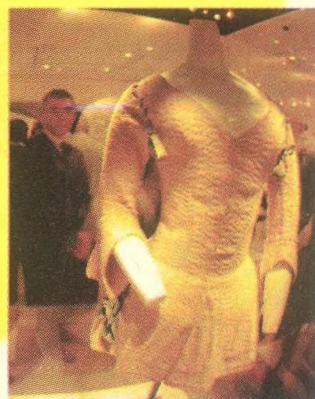


Miss Universe Lara Dutta in an aqua blue-and-silver Lehenga choli, with the dupatta draped sexily across her waist, an ensemble created for her by designer Ritu Kumar.

BUTTERFLY STROKE: Model Mrinalani, her hairdo embellished with decorative butterflies, showcases an outfit by the designer Tarun Tahiliani.



Taiwanese models share a joke backstage few moments before the opening of a fashion show of wedding dresses, the "Year 2000 Wedding Show" at the Taipei World Trade



ISLAMIC FASHION: A visitor looks at the 19th century clothing on display at an exhibition on "Dress for the Body, Body for the Dress" which was opened by Malaysia Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Kuala Lumpur.